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No. 65,618

FRIDAY JUNE 28 1996

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RESPONDENT

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THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF MY LIFE
Terry Venables interview
PAGE 48

LYNNE TRUSS
The end of my football affair
PAGE 18

EDUCATION

The vital guide to degree vacancies
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ROGER DALTRY
My regeneration
PAGE 35

TOMORROW

WIN 30 HOURS LESSONS WITH BSM

Bombing overshadows summit

Clinton calls for crusade to beat terrorism

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER AND MICHAEL BINYON IN LYONS

PRESIDENT CLINTON called last night for a new international alliance to combat attacks such as the Dhahran bombing, saying: "We must rally the forces of freedom and tolerance everywhere to work against terrorism."



Clinton: proposed new international alliance

Mr Clinton was speaking as leaders of the seven main industrial nations rewrote their summit agenda to consider new proposals on terrorism and organised crime.

World terrorism was the greatest security challenge of the 21st century, Mr Clinton said. "All of us understand that terrorism is a problem from which no one can hide and on which we can all cooperate."

Later, when the G7 leaders gathered for their traditional opening dinner, they approved a swiftly prepared draft from their host, President Chirac, condemning recent outrages.

They also looked at anti-terrorist measures drawn up over the past few months, and they are likely to approve them when the Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin joins the gathering this afternoon.

The proposals include a "nowhere to hide" extradition agreement, tighter border controls, powers to seize criminals' assets, a crackdown on computer fraud and money laundering.

Tuesday's Dhahran bombing is inevitable that terrorism would dominate the G7 deliberations, and John Major was determined to en-

sure that Mr Clinton, particularly, understood that terrorism associated with Northern Ireland should be considered in the same light.

He said: "The outrage at Dhahran and the outrage at Manchester — where only good fortune averted many being killed — means that this is an issue which we must address."

Earlier, on a symbolic visit to Perouges — a small town liberated from the Nazis by American and French troops — Mr Clinton had declared: "Fifty-two years ago the French Resistance worked here in common cause with American GIs to win your freedom back. Now we must join together to face down the new threat to our freedom."

Terrorism is in our minds today because of the cowardly bombing in Saudi Arabia. We will not rest in our efforts to discover who was responsible, to track them down and bring them to justice. In Lyons I

expect the G7 to adopt 40 very specific recommendations to combat crime and terror, to increase our efforts to prevent terrorists from committing their crimes and our ability to track, catch and punish them when they do."

To underline his call for collective action Mr Clinton pointed to a tree planted shortly after the French Revolution and known locally as the Tree of Liberty. He said: "Today's threats to liberty that your tree symbolises are very different from those of 200 years ago, different from the threats of World War Two or the Cold War. But they are real and we must face them."

Mr Clinton went on to spend an hour in talks with Mr Major, discussing the Saudi and Manchester bombings and the Northern Ireland peace process.

The unity over terrorism did not, however, deter Mr Major from raising European fears over an American law that could damage companies doing business with Libya, Iran and Cuba.

The Helms-Burton law, which punishes firms from other countries that do business with Cuba, is likely to feature prominently in the summit's discussions over the next two days, with other leaders expected to use their private talks with the President to protest about the effects of the legislation on their countries.

Dhahran bomb, pages 14, 15
Lyons brief, page 15
Leading article, page 21

Six days from now this treasure could be lost to the nation



The 12th century Limoges casket is held aloft by Conrad Webb of Sotheby's photograph by Des Jensen

Battle to keep the Becket casket

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has just six days to save a jewel of the nation's heritage. A spectacular 12th century casket which is believed to have held a relic of St Thomas à Becket, is to be sold by Sotheby's on Thursday.

The reliquary casket or chasse, which may have contained one of Becket's bones, a fragment of his clothing or a lock of his hair, could be lost forever unless the Victoria & Albert Museum can raise several million pounds before the sale.

Sotheby's is estimating that it will fetch about £1.5 million at auction, although there is nothing comparable to guide them; others are forecasting much more. Canada is among its most likely destinations: a noted collector of medieval antiquities lives there. The Getty Museum in California and the Metropolitan Museum in New York are also being suggested as possible buyers.

The striking 1190s casket, 12in long, 11½ins high and 4½ins wide, bears Limoges enamelling that is unrivalled in Britain. Expressive figures, each with repousse copper heads, tell the story of Becket's murder and martyrdom.

Scholars and clergymen argue that, as one of the earliest representations of the saint in existence, this is just the kind of heritage treasure which the lottery should be saving for Britain. For some, this has a far stronger heritage case than perhaps the Seurat painting bought for the Nat

Continued on page 2, col 1

Henry Mayr-Harting page 20

Rose pesticide is banned

Britain's best-selling garden pesticide for use on roses, Roseclear, has been banned with immediate effect by the Government after tests on rabbits showed it could cause serious eye damage.

The product is manufactured by Zeneca Agrochemicals of Haslemere, Surrey, and has been marketed since January of last year by Miracle Garden Care of Godalming, also in Surrey. Retail sales amount to about £2.5 million a year.

Train strain

A Eurostar train taking investors and City analysts to Eurotunnel's annual shareholders' meeting in Paris broke down. They were rescued by two TGVs and arrived in Paris three hours late. Pages 25, 29

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Why Southgate the brave stepped up ahead of England's penalty novices

BY STAFF REPORTERS

GARETH SOUTHGATE, whose penalty miss against Germany brought England's Euro '96 bandwagon to a shuddering halt, returned home yesterday with words of sympathy ringing in his ears.

"He's the one you have to feel for in all this," Terry Venables, the outgoing England coach, said. "He wanted to take a penalty and he stood up and took it. I'm sure he will come through and be the stronger for it."

Venables had talked to Southgate long into Wednesday night, just as he had done on the field in the immediate aftermath of his side's defeat.

Southgate, whose only previous penalty hit the post, had his kick saved by Andreas Köpke, after the first choice penalty-takers from both sides had all scored.

"We had been practising the day before and Gareth was perfectly happy to take one," Ted Buxton, Venables's assis-

tant, said. Southgate's miss at least relieved the tension from the players next in line: Darren Anderton, Paul Ince and Steve McManaman — none of whom had ever scored a penalty. "Tony Adams said he would take one, and I suppose David Seaman would have been last," Buxton added.



Typical, just when I want to go on the rampage in the West End

Perhaps Venables should have asked Adams, the captain, ahead of Southgate since he scored a penalty in Arsenal's shoot-out against Sampdoria of Italy in April last year. He was right, though, not have chosen Seaman. The Arsenal goalkeeper's solitary penalty was against Manchester United in the 1993 FA Charity Shield and his kick was so weak that Peter Schmeichel saved it comfortably.

Coaches have to hand a list of five players to the referee before the shoot-out. England's five, all regular penalty-takers, chose themselves. After that, it was a matter of finding volunteers. Southgate might reflect that he was too brave for his own good. "It's like a bruise," Venables said on his last day as England coach. "The feeling will come back tomorrow."

For Köpke, the secret of success lay in guesswork. Knowing nothing about Southgate's technique, he de-

cidated to trust to instinct and made the vital save, diving to his right to parry Southgate's low kick. "It was pure luck," he said.

Southgate was offered further consolation after the game from John Major, who put an arm round him and told him: "You were one of the stars of the tournament and have no need to be ashamed. You should be proud of your performance."

Southgate's mother, Barbara, was less diplomatic. She said that when he telephoned her after the match she asked him "Why didn't you just belt it?"

Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, led the calls for a fairer solution to drawn matches in the later stages of big tournaments. "It is not very satisfactory," he said. "If there is a better alternative we would look at it."

Tabloids accused, page 4
Lynne Truss, page 18
Venables interview, page 48

Blair flies to pacify Scotland

BY JILL SHERMAN AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

TONY BLAIR flies into Edinburgh today to quell a growing storm both within and outside his party over his plans to hold a referendum on a Scottish parliament.

The proposal has infuriated the Scottish Labour Party and has prompted the resignation of Lord Ewing, a Labour peer, from his post as co-chairman of the Scottish Constitutional Convention, the body which drew up the blueprint for a Scottish parliament.

John McAllion, a Labour frontbench spokesman on Scotland, is threatening to resign, although Donald Dewar, the chief whip, made strenuous attempts to dissuade him.

Yesterday John Major, Michael Heseltine and Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, did their best to exploit the turmoil. In a barnstorm-



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BURGHLEY HORSE TRIALS, STAMFORD	5-8 September
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Genetics expert explains why some mothers do 'ave 'em

BY JEREMY LAURENCE HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

BRIGHT men have their mothers to thank for their cleverness. But dimwitted chaps should also blame their mums, according to an Australian genetics expert.

Professor Gillian Turner says that the genes a son inherits from his

mother play a greater role in determining his intelligence than those he acquires from his father.

Several genes which determine intelligence appear to be located on the X-chromosome, the one men inherit from their mothers. Writing in *The Lancet*, Professor Turner says that this could explain why most geniuses are male — and most dimwits are too.

A woman inherits two X-chromosomes — one from each parent — so the effect of any mutation to a gene on one will be diluted by the corresponding normal gene on the other.

However, a man has only one X-chromosome, which is paired with his much smaller Y-chromosome from his father. The Y-chromosome does not carry enough genes to match every one

on the X-chromosome so a single mutation on the X-chromosome is likely to be able to exert its full effect.

In the case of intelligence genes, that could make the difference between being average and being a genius or an idiot.

The best bet for a man who wants to have smart sons is to marry a smart woman, Professor Turner says.

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directed by the broadcaster Anna Ford and the actors

and quiet. There will be 12-year-old boys, and where you

raising children."

Veve Clicquot
CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

Unseeded Rooker defeated by ageing champion's serve and volley

With the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the G7 meeting in Lyons, and the leader of the Opposition in Scotland for a groundbreaking speech, Prime Minister's Questions at the Commons on a hot Thursday afternoon felt rather like Court 17 at Wimbledon on a day when key contests were taking place in the Centre Court and No 1 Court.

In Court 17 (I learn) Macedonia was playing Australia. In the Commons Chamber,

Jeff Rooker was facing Michael Heseltine. Jeff who? Very much the Macedonia of the Labour front bench, he seemed an odd choice to deputise for Tony Blair.

Normally, Blair's deputy, John Prescott, would stand in. But yesterday we heard that Mr Prescott had broken his foot. So what? Why should that prevent a bloke asking a couple of questions at the dispatch box? Dave Blunkett, who is blind, seems to manage fine as Labour's education spokesman, while for Jack

Ashley (now Lord Ashley), being stone deaf never hindered him in his quarter century as an MP.

Other excuses offered for Mr Prescott were that he had been in Greece for the late Mr Papandreu's funeral. Hmm. The suspicion arises that the ex-shop steward MP for Hull E is becoming a bit of a wuss. Your sketchwriter has met Prescott's no-nonsense father, a rock-hewn beacon of working class pride.

Prescott Snr was dismayed, recently, when his son an-



— and a foreigner, to boot — we suspect this will elicit few cheers on the dockside in Hull.

Instead we were offered Mr Rooker, who turns out to be the deputy to the shadow Leader of the House. He put in a plucky performance.

But Michael Heseltine, deputising for John Major, never gave him a chance. It

was one of Hezza's best quarter hours in recent times and the old lion left to a noisy Tory cheer. That he said absolutely nothing of any note may be remarked, perhaps, not so much as a criticism, as a tribute to the showman's guile.

John McFall (L. Dumbar-ton) had the first question. He was unwise to enquire about the Tories' attitude to a referendum on Scottish devolution, as Heseltine had ready a splendid rant on the "shambles" Labour were in over this. "One whiff of trouble" and

they retreated. Their policy was being made "over pasta and Chianti" in Islington. Only the thoughtful noticed the deputy Prime Minister's failure to answer the question.

Mr Rooker tried to enquire about the sale of Army homes. Mr Heseltine mocked his lack of seniority (Tory guffaws) and failed to answer the question. Mr Rooker said he might be new to the job but he required an answer, and repeated the question. Mr Heseltine attacked Labour's approach to defence. Only the thoughtful

noticed his failure even to support his own party's policies on homes sales.

Subsequent questions offered Mr Heseltine the opportunity to outline his thoughts on the Union, the need for a referendum in England, Tube strikes and pay television.

In no case did his answer take us anywhere. Yet he was by turns funny, and brutal. This man is an intriguing mixture of stage confidence, and intellectual timidity. Bold as brass, but a big girl's blouse too, in his way.

Major tells Hogg: well done, your job is safe

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR told Douglas Hogg last night that he would keep his job as Agriculture Minister despite calls from senior colleagues for him to be sacked. Mr Hogg, who has faced intense criticism from senior colleagues for his handling of beef crisis, has also received a letter from the Prime Minister praising his work in recent months.

Mr Major is said to be annoyed that the continuing speculation surrounding Mr Hogg is raising widespread uncertainty about a Cabinet reshuffle. He has told colleagues that a reshuffle is his responsibility and he is not going to be "bounced" into making changes.

A reshuffle of non-Cabinet ministers remains inevitable following the announcement by ministers Steven Norris and Tim Eggar that they are standing down as MPs at the election. The reassurances offered to Mr Hogg make any Cabinet changes much less likely, as senior ministers had suggested that he was the most obvious trigger for a top-level reshuffle.

During a 30-minute meeting with Alastair Goodlad, the Government Chief Whip, Mr Hogg was told that he had the full confidence of the Prime Minister and that he could expect to retain his current post through to the election. In a personal letter to Mr Hogg, Mr Major wrote: "The last three months of the crisis over beef have not been easy for many of us but I am conscious that they have been most difficult for you and your department, faced with the multiple challenges of an issue with huge agricultural, trade and political ramifications."

Mr Hogg's meeting came as Labour increased pressure for his dismissal. Brian Wilson, a leading member of Labour's campaign team, said: "Mr Hogg has had it — and all the Tories can think about is getting the chance to add the post of Cabinet minister to their CVs before the Government goes the way of a clapped-out old milker."

The French Government announced a ban yesterday on all British animal feed containing animal parts in the latest move to stamp out mad cow disease (Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis).

France prohibited the use of animal feed containing bone meal for ruminants in 1989, a year after Britain, but it is still permitted for pigs, chickens and fish.

A scientific committee led by Dr Dominique Dormont, a brain-disease specialist, presented the Government with a report saying that animal feed containing the remains of British cows infected with BSE was the principal potential source of "mad cow disease".

British farmers are to get an additional £12 million in aid to cope with the beef crisis under a deal agreed by European Union agriculture ministers in Luxembourg. The aid, part of a £705 million package granted to all EU farmers, is intended to compensate beef producers for low prices caused by consumer fears of "mad cow" disease. Most of the money will be used to increase existing EU subsidies for beef cattle, but the Government has the discretion to distribute £28 million to the worst-affected producers and to add a matching amount from national funds.



At the Glasgow conference are, from left, Mr Cook, Mr McConnell, Mr Dewar, Mr Robertson and Mr Brown

Blair acts to calm party storm as Scots blueprint rocks Labour

Continued from page 1

ing performance in the Commons Mr Heseltine said Labour's policy was in a "shambles" and accused Mr Blair of being panicked into holding a referendum. "He has sold out his promises to Scotland at the first whiff of anxiety in Middle England," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

Labour running Britain with beer and sandwiches at No 10 in the 1970s was one thing. "But running Scotland over pasta and chianti in Islington is quite another thing," Mr Major issued a warning that Labour's plans would lead to higher taxes, the loss of the post of Secretary of State for Scotland, a reduction in Scottish MPs and a cut in outside investment in Scotland.

Today Mr Blair will appeal over the heads of party activists to persuade the grassroots in Scotland that he is firmly committed to a tax-raising

Scottish parliament. In a wide-ranging speech on the constitution at Edinburgh University he will tell party members that as prime minister he would lead the campaign for a "yes" vote on both elements of the referendum: in support of a Scottish parliament and one with tax-raising powers. Mr Blair will dismiss charges of betrayal as "utter nonsense". He will argue that both Harold Wilson and Lord Callaghan of Cardiff tried and failed to legislate for a Scottish Parliament and he wants to be the first prime minister to do it and get it through.

At a heated press conference in Glasgow yesterday, George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, denied that the plan to hold a referendum represented a policy U-turn. He admitted that he had changed his mind on the benefits of a referendum as change in tactics rather than policy. He revealed that

he had proposed the idea of a referendum to Mr Blair when the Labour leader was staying with him after the Duablane tragedy in March.

But the plan to hold a two-question referendum has been agreed by a small committee only recently as the best way of defusing the Tories' "tartan tax campaign" which has been effective.

The committee which included Gordon Brown, Robin Cook, Donald Dewar, Mr Robertson and Ron Davies, the Shadow Welsh Secretary, has been meeting since November to try to solve what Mr Blair has regarded as a potentially damaging policy on Scottish devolution.

But the Shadow Cabinet was only fully informed of the plan on Wednesday night, the day after it had leaked to the press. Today Mr Blair will argue that the plan for a referendum is a key example of how Labour has had to modernise policies to make

them practical. "The golden rule in the manifesto document is we stick to policies we make and we must have a clear idea not only what the benefits are but how we are going to implement them," he will say.

"We will legislate for a Scottish Parliament and a Welsh Assembly in the first year of a Labour government. John Smith said it was his unfinished business but he died tragically before he could implement it."

Jack McConnell, general secretary of the Scottish Labour Party, said the referendum would come within six weeks of a general election won by Labour. A White Paper on devolution will be published within three weeks of a Labour victory, followed by a one-line referendum Bill.

Lord Ewing of Kirkcaldy, the former Labour Scottish Office minister, resigned minutes after the plan was formally announced.

Major seeks to avert pay row

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister hopes to block an inflation-busting pay rise for MPs and ministers by trying to gain cross-party agreement aimed at delaying salary increases of more than £10,000.

John Major took the unusual step of consulting opposition leaders before publishing the Government's recommendations on salary increases next week. He is anxious to avoid a high-profile dispute next month when MPs debate a report by the Senior Salaries Review Body, which is expected to recommend five-figure increases.

Ministers are likely to be pressed to reject recommendations to increase their own pay by up to £18,000, restricting themselves to inflation-linked increases. The move signals a repeat of tactics that backfired on Baroness Thatcher, who was overruled by MPs after she tried to pay pay rises in 1983 after rejecting recommended increases for Cabinet ministers.

Ministers hope that MPs will accept a modest increase, probably next January, with the promise of a much higher salary to come into effect after the general election. However more than 70 MPs who are about to retire, and others in danger of losing their seats, are anxious to ensure a full pay rise before the general election, to be reflected in heavily enhanced pensions.

Cabinet sources suggested yesterday that it would be possible to delay the increase until after the election but backdate the increase for pension purposes only.

The decision to press for cross-party consensus is also seen by ministers as an attempt to put the Labour leadership on the spot. The Labour front bench has repeatedly opposed the practice of the Commons setting MPs' pay and has abstained from several votes in the past.

Tebbit leads attacks on Dr Masari

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Lord Tebbit, a victim of IRA bombers in the attack on the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1984, last night led calls for the Home Secretary to deport Muhammad al-Masari, the dissident Saudi scientist, over his claim during a BBC radio interview that the bombers who killed 19 US servicemen in Dhahran had an "intellectually very strong" case.

MPs were pressing Michael Howard to revoke his "exceptional leave" to remain in Britain. Lord Tebbit said: "There is now an intellectual justification for the Home Secretary to reopen the procedures to deport this man."

Hunt for bombers, page 14

Goldsmith puts out manifesto

Sir James Goldsmith unveiled the Referendum Party's manifesto with a plan to safeguard Britain's future in Europe. In his speech to hundreds of supporters at Newcastle upon Tyne, the first in a series of rallies, he said that running away from the EU was the soft option. Withdrawal was the last resort if a policy of persuasion failed to achieve change from within.

Tube stop causes pollution increase

Air pollution rose sharply in London as many drove to work during the one-day Tube strike. About a third of Tube services ran. Aslef, the train drivers' union, said there had been a 100 per cent response to the strike which it blamed on London Transport "renegeing" on an agreement to cut working hours. London Transport said it was pleased so many services had run.

Guernsey bans ads for tobacco

Guernsey has become the first area of the British Isles to ban cigarette advertising completely. A package of anti-smoking proposals was accepted by the island's government after it heard that one in five deaths on the island are attributed to tobacco-related diseases. The death rate from the disease among island women has increased by 88 per cent in 15 years.

Ro-ro operators face safety bill

Ferry operators will be forced to carry out expensive overhauls of their older roll-on, roll-off ships at a cost of up to £3 million per vessel to meet a tough new safety standard to be phased in from next year. All 100 ro-ro operators from British ports will have to comply with the standard by October 2002 at the latest, Viscount Goschen, the shipping minister, said yesterday.

Six days to save Becket casket for nation

Continued from page 1

ional Gallery with £8 million of lottery funds. A grant from the National Lottery Fund has been promised, but it is not enough. The heritage lottery fund generally covers 75 per cent of the purchase price for works over £100,000, insisting that the rest be raised through "partnership funding".

One observer said: "Lottery funds are distributed on a case-by-case basis. It has tended to be 75 per cent for works over £100,000. What's stopping them giving more? I don't think there's anything."

Philippa Glanville, the V&A's chief curator of metalwork silver and jewellery, said that they have received a number of donations from people who have been inspired by the cause: "I can't say we're confident we're going to get it. We're very

encouraged by the response from the public. This has historical resonance and a wonderful provenance. As well as being beautiful, it has great presence. It is one of the great objects."

The casket was on loan to the British Museum since 1979, when it was acquired by the British Rail Pension Fund, which was then investing some £40 million in art: since 1987, the Fund has been selling off the collection in a series of sales at Sotheby's. As the casket was in a German collection before being purchased by the BR Fund, it is not bound by export rules. July 4 is Britain's last chance to save it.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, has the power to intervene and direct the distributing bodies. Scholars and historians are appealing for action, calling for the heritage lottery

fund's chairman, Lord Rothschild, to provide the full grant.

The National Art Collections Fund, Britain's largest art charity, kickstarted the campaign by donating a £100,000 grant. It remains committed to saving the work.

Among scholars voicing concern about its possible departure is the medievalist Michael Kauffmann. He said: "It is a splendid piece. It would be a great pity if we lost it. It is a marvel. Becket was a national saint until Henry VIII had him scrubbed out. He was one of most popular saints in Europe at around 1200. It would be a pity if the largest and most beautiful manifestation of that cult were to go abroad."

Henry Mayr-Harting, page 20

of 60,000 service homes, the Government could easily face defeat. Ministers had hoped to push the move through without a Commons vote.

Labour said it would try to use an amendment to the Housing Bill, currently going through the Lords, or one of the days allotted to the Opposition for debates.

Although some 20 Tory MPs have withdrawn their names from a Commons motion opposing the sell off, 40 have refused to give in to the Whips. They believe the sell-off goes against the views of many in the forces and groups such as the Royal British

Threat to MoD homes sell-off

By JAMES LANDALE AND ANDREW PIERCE

MICHAEL PORTILLO's plan to sell off Armed Forces married quarters came under fresh threat last night after Labour announced it would force a vote on the issue next month. Tory backbench opponents also brushed aside attempts by the Defence Secretary to allay their fears.

A source close to Tony Blair said: "We think it is bad economically, bad for service morale and we are going to do all we can to stop it."

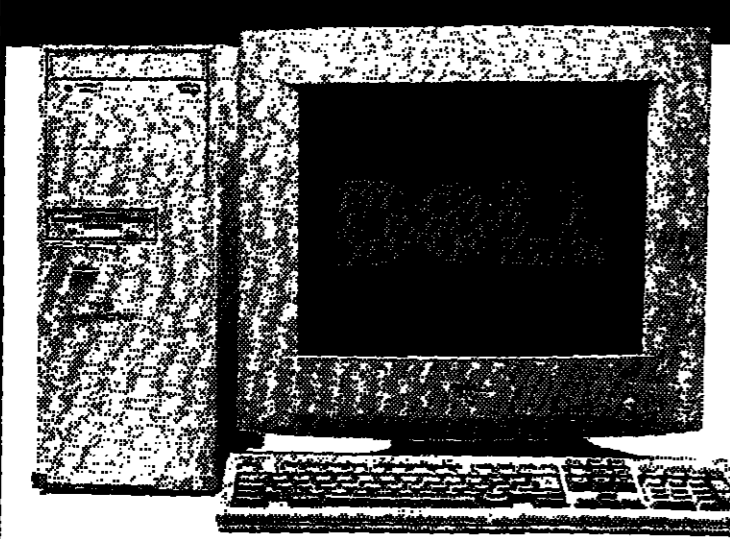
With many Tory MPs fiercely opposed to the planned sale

Legion and the Army Families Federation.

Julian Brazier, Tory MP for Canterbury and leader of the rebellion, demanded that the Government rethink the plans and listened to army families. He said that a letter sent by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, to all Tory MPs yesterday outlining the Government's position contained nothing new.

In the Commons yesterday, Michael Heseltine, standing in for the Prime Minister, insisted that everyone in service life understood that as a condition of service they might be expected to move.

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By TIM JON

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Drug-deal suspect offered corrupt policeman £60,000

By Richard Duce and Stewart Tandler

A CORRUPT police officer faces a lengthy jail sentence after a suspected drugs dealer was convicted yesterday of offering him £60,000 in bribes.

John Donald, 37, had admitted taking bribes from Kevin Cressey, 38, a self-confessed criminal, but the case against him could not be opened until Cressey was eventually convicted yesterday at the Old Bailey of offering the cash for information about undercover operations. During the two-month trial the jury was offered 24-hour police protection.

Donald, described by the prosecution as "steeped in corruption and dishonest to the core", was exposed in a BBC Panorama programme. He will be sentenced today by Mrs Justice Steel.

Cressey, of Ditton, Kent, met Donald when he was arrested and accused of drugs

dealing, a charge on which the jury, after three days of deliberation, has still to agree. He was arrested in 1992 as part of a lengthy South East Regional Crime Squad operation, known as "India" and "Cressey was 'India One'".

John Nutting, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that he was arrested in Streatham, south London, with David Fraser, son of "Mad" Frankie Fraser, who was carrying a Browning automatic pistol. Police allegedly seized a laundry bag containing 52kg of cannabis resin, worth £200,000.

Cressey decided to turn informant and Donald, based with one of the South East Regional Crime drug squads in Surbiton, Surrey, had regular meetings with his new charge. Donald, of Shep-

perton, Surrey, was assigned another officer, but then broke the rules by persisting in meeting Cressey alone while his colleague went away on a course. It was while the pair were alone together that Donald took £1,000 for handing over a copy of the police file on Cressey.

Then Donald took £18,000 to ensure that Cressey received bail on the drug charges. He was paid a further £500 for providing Cressey with police information about surveillance on a Michael Lawson.

Donald also agreed a fee of £40,000 to destroy incriminating evidence in the case against Cressey. A further £10,000 was promised for providing Cressey with information about British Customs and United States drug agency operations for Mr Lawson and a Kenneth Noye.

On December 17, 1992, the case against both Cressey and Fraser was discontinued at a committal hearing before Camberwell magistrates, but three months later police decided to recharge Cressey with possession of drugs with intent to supply. Fraser had by then left the country and is believed to be living in Spain.

Three weeks later Cressey, believing he had been double-crossed, decided to discredit the case against him by establishing that Donald was corrupt. He contacted Panorama and, over the next six months, his conversations with Donald, in which he tried to get the officer to admit he had been "fitted up", were recorded secretly.



John Donald, left, has admitted taking bribes from Kevin Cressey for information about police activities



Kevin Cressey, right, was eventually convicted of offering bribes to John Donald



Jennifer Powell, who was dismissed from her £24,000-a-year job by Peter Fenwick for allegedly stealing bonuses



Fenwicks executive sacked for theft

By a Staff Reporter

THE deputy chairman of Fenwicks department store sacked an executive after accusing her of stealing staff Christmas bonuses, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Peter Fenwick dismissed Jennifer Powell from her post as building manager and company secretary at Chesterfield House, a mansion block in Mayfair, central London, where Fenwicks owned a number of flats. Mrs Powell, who was paid £24,000 a year and had a rent-free flat, is claiming unfair dismissal. She denies theft and says she was not given a fair hearing. The tribunal was told that two porters at the flats found



Chesterfield House, where Fenwicks owns flats

discrepancies in the Christmas bonuses dating back two years. Jim Gorman and David Reeves kept diaries of their bonus in 1995 and found that they received about £50

held some of the bonus until after Christmas without telling the staff, but had intended to pay them. But before she could do so, she was sacked.

Mrs Powell, of Bourne-moath, Dorset, was dismissed in January for gross misconduct after the porters told one of the building's owners, David Atterton, a former director of the Bank of England, of their suspicions. He informed Mr Fenwick.

Peter Oldham, for Mrs Powell, said that his client was an exemplary manager who arranged Christmas parties for staff and bought them each a turkey. Mr Fenwick had not given her a fair hearing.

The tribunal was adjourned until November 12.

Tent girl's injuries like those in car crash

By Kate Alderson

THE killer who took Sophie Hook, 7, from a garden tent left her with head injuries so severe that they could have been caused in a road accident, a court was told yesterday.

Dr Donald Waite, a Home Office pathologist, said Sophie's bruises were like those of an accident victim whose head strikes the windscreen or the side of the car. He confirmed that all the injuries he had accounted for were inflicted while she was alive.

Three children told Chester Crown Court on a video link that they saw Howard Hughes, who is accused of Sophie's murder, lingering on a bridge path at the bottom of the garden on the afternoon of July 29. The prosecution says that was when Sophie, her siblings and cousins were playing in the garden, some of them wearing little clothing, and chatting excitedly about camping in a tent that night.

On Wednesday, Gerard Elias, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr Hughes "had heard and perhaps seen the children and he was lurking to get a better view".

Sophie, from Great Budworth, Cheshire, was taken from a tent in her uncle's garden in Llandudno under cover of darkness and subjected to a violent attack before being strangled. Mr Hughes, 31, from Colwyn Bay, North Wales, denies murder and double rape.

The case continues.

Barrister four times over drink-drive limit may go to jail

By Tim Jones

A BARRISTER was warned yesterday that he faces a jail sentence after he was found to be four times over the drink-drive limit when his car was stopped. James Bonney, QC, told police patrol officers: "I am a High Court judge. Take me home."

Michael Wenman, presiding at Lytham Magistrates' Court, Lancashire, told him the court was considering a custodial sentence after hearing Bonney, 47, had been banned from driving for 18 months after being convicted six years ago for driving over the limit.

The court was told that Bonney, who has chambers in Manchester and London, had been placed on a list of counsel who might be invited to become judges in the Chancery Division of the High Court.

David Forbes, for the prosecution, said that on a May afternoon police saw him mount the kerb twice as he drove at 25 mph down at road at Lytham. Although signalled to stop, Bonney continued down two other roads before halting.

Mr Forbes said that at first Bonney denied drinking but then said he had been drinking heavily the previous evening. "He did not give a roadside breath test and was cautioned by police." A breath test at the police station showed 130 units of alcohol in his blood against the legal maximum of 35.

Richard Henriques, QC, for the defence, said: "He is not a

drinker. You may think that an extraordinary statement but what has happened is that on two occasions he has been basically drunk too much."

He added: "This conviction must have ended any judicial career he may have hoped for. He must expect shame and disgrace other members of the community could not suffer. Since this event he has not worked or consumed any alcohol whatsoever."

Mr Henriques said that at the time of the offence his client, a church lay reader, was unwell. His father had died of cancer and his daughter had been in hospital. He had also found that he could not cope with his workload since becoming a QC.

He will be sentenced after magistrates have considered reports.



Bonney has not worked since the breath test

Woman was shot dead in row over swearing

By a Staff Reporter

A WOMAN of 55 was shot dead on her doorstep after telling her son's friend to stop swearing, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mary Wilding was hit in the neck by a blast from a shotgun fired by Andrew McLeod, 41, who then turned the gun on himself.

The inquest at Milton Keynes was told that moments earlier the two had argued when McLeod, who was drunk, began shouting and swearing outside Mrs Wilding's home in the town. Witnesses said they heard McLeod say: "I'm going to shoot you. You've had it now - I'm going to kill you."

McLeod had been to a barbecue nearby on the night of the shooting in August last year. His girlfriend, Una Kear, said he had been drinking and smoking cannabis.

Mrs Wilding's son, Kevin, 31, said he saw McLeod after going out to close the gate. "He was very abusive. I can't remember the exact words but my mum told him off."

In a statement read out at the inquest, Wilhelmina Sharpe, a neighbour, described how she heard McLeod threaten to kill Mrs Wilding. He went away and returned with a gun. She heard a "loud shot and saw sparks". Seconds later there was another shot, she said.

The deputy North Bucks coroner, Peter Lovegrove, recorded verdicts of unlawful killing and suicide.

Victim's 12 days in witness box

A JAPANESE student, the victim of an alleged gang rape, yesterday finished giving evidence after 12 days in the witness box at the Old Bailey.

The student, 20, said she had been kept naked as a prisoner for 48 hours by six teenagers who took it in turns to rape and assault her. She was so traumatised that she

was unable to talk to police for two days.

She was cross-examined by 11 barristers and frequently broke down in tears. The student, who had been in London for less than a month, said she was lured into a trap by a 16-year-old after a sight-seeing trip in Leicester Square. The accused are Jason

Baksh, 17, his brother Mark, 21, Aynon Waite, 18, all of

Tulse Hill, and Roger Leslie, 19, of Brixton, south London. A 15-year-old from Streatham and 16-year-old from Tulse Hill may not be identified.

They variously deny rape, indecent assault and aiding and abetting rape between October 12 and 14 last year.

City children win village breaks despite the bicker of Dibley

By Tim Jones

DEPRIVED inner-city children will soon be playing in the leafy lanes of an idyllic Children's Country Holiday Fund project that divided the community. The nine-year dispute has been dubbed a classic case of the "not in my back yard" syndrome and brought

into conflict such luminaries as Jeremy Paxman, the broadcaster, and Lady Quinton, wife of the former chairman of the British Library.

The scheme to allow the former primary school in Turville - used as the setting for the television series *The Vicar of Dibley* - to be used as a holiday camp was approved unanimously by High Wycombe District Council, in spite of objections from a quarter of the 65 villagers.

Mr Paxman, who lives in the parish, but not in the village, has come in for particular criticism because of his role in helping to secure an £11,000 grant toward the project from a National Lottery fund. He has been supported by the author John Mortimer, the broadcaster Anna Ford and the actors

Jeremy Irons and Sinead Cusack.

Lady Quinton, who lives in a splendid mill house, has said that, as the village is only 40 miles from London, the children could be driven there and back in a day, and points out that there are no facilities in the village, which has one pub but no shop. She added: "If they are small, what are they going to learn? If they are big, they are going to get into mischief."

Alistair Horne, the biographer, said: "We think it is very arrogant of Paxman, Mortimer and all the other showbiz types when not a single one of them lives in the village." Peter Bond, a former BBC World Service announcer, said: "It is a question of peace and quiet. There will be 12-year-old boys, and where you

get a dozen of them you get a lot of noise."

He claimed that the Children's Country Holiday Fund project had already cost £250,000. "For that, they could take the children to Disneyland."

The Rev Paul Nicolson, a keen supporter of the plan, said: "They have made an Alpine mountain out of a Chiltern hill. The children will be well-supervised."

At least 17 villagers had written to the council, controlled by the Liberal Democrats and Labour, to object to the plan. Brian Pollock, a councillor, said: "I find these objections petty and pitiful. I thought we were being asked to approve a site for convicted axe murderers. All we are talking about here is children."

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Is it correct? Or is it just politically correct?

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In one scientific study, even the ordinary biscuit was linked to heart disease.

But as common sense suggests (and scientists confirm) not everything described statistically as a risk is a meaningful risk.

For example, lots of people have been persuaded that second-hand tobacco smoke is harmful.

Not surprising, perhaps.

After all, we recognise that smoking itself is a risk factor for certain human diseases and that some people find second-hand tobacco smoke unappealing and unpleasant.

But what's correct and what's just politically correct? Is second-hand tobacco smoke really

a meaningful health risk to people who've chosen not to smoke?

Not, we think, if you look at the evidence.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency recently conducted a major review of studies on the risks of second-hand tobacco smoke to non-smokers. These studies typically involve non-smokers living with smokers over a long period, such as 20 years.

And this review put the risk of lung cancer from second-hand tobacco smoke at a level well below the risk reported by other studies for many everyday items and activities.

And below, in fact, the risk to health that one other study reported for eating one biscuit a day.

As the table below shows, many everyday

activities have been statistically associated at one time or another with apparent risks to health.

But reputable scientists say that weak associations aren't necessarily meaningful.

So there's no big campaign to persuade you to give up your daily biscuit.

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We'll send you the evidence about second-hand smoke.

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Associated with additional risk

Weak association with risk

Associated with reduced risk

Everyday Activities	Reported Relative Risk*	Reported Health Effect	Scientific Study Reference
Diet highest in saturated fat	6.14	Lung cancer	Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Vol. 85, p.1906 (1993)
Non-vegetarian v vegetarian diet	3.08	Heart disease	American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, Vol. 31, p. S191 (1978)
Frequently cooking with rapeseed oil	2.80	Lung cancer	International Journal of Cancer, Vol. 40, p. 604 (1987)
Drinking 1-2 glasses of whole milk per day	1.62	Lung cancer	International Journal of Cancer, Vol. 43, p. 608 (1989)
Eating one biscuit a day	1.49	Heart disease	Lancet, Vol. 341, p. 581 (1993)
Drinking chlorinated water	1.38	Rectal cancer	American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 82, p. 955 (1992)
Eating pepper frequently	1.30	Mortality	American Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 119, p. 775 (1984)
Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke	1.19	Lung cancer	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1992)
High vegetable diet	0.37	Lung cancer	International Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 25, Suppl.1, p. 32 (1996)
High fruit diet	0.31	Lung cancer	American Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 133, p. 683 (1991)

*Relative risk measures how much consuming, or being exposed to something, raises or lowers risk. According to the US National Cancer Institute... "In epidemiologic research, relative risks of less than 2 are considered small and are usually difficult to interpret. Such increases may be due to chance, statistical bias, or effects of confounding factors that are sometimes not evident."

Philip Morris Europe S.A.
Second-hand tobacco smoke. Let's keep a sense of perspective.

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Charles II portrait comes home from Vienna exile

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A LONG-LOST portrait of Charles II, painted by Antonio Verrio as the centrepiece of a magnificent 17th-century ceiling at Windsor Castle, will be returning to Windsor after its discovery by a London dealer.

The particularly lively portrait, painted between 1680 and 1684 shortly before the monarch's death, has been bought by the Royal Collection. Sir Christopher Lloyd, Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, described it as "a most significant acquisition".

The 32in by 27in portrait by one of Charles II's favourite artists is almost all that remains of Verrio's murals and ceiling for St George's Hall, George IV disliked them so much that he had the entire scheme dismantled and destroyed in 1829, commissioning a new look from the architect Sir Jeffrey Wyattville. Verrio is enjoying a touch of divine justice: it was Wyattville's design that was destroyed in the 1992 fire at Windsor. Verrio's portrait is likely to be given pride of place within the renovated St George's Hall.

The oil-on-plaster portrait was discovered by Philip



Charles II looks down on St George's Hall, as it was

Mould, a London dealer specialising in British portraiture, at the Dorotheum auction house in Vienna. It had been miscatalogued as a portrait of Kaiser Leopold I, a contemporary of Charles II.

Mr Mould said: "When one comes across a new image of Charles II is known to have been owned by him. Charles II which is clearly contemporary and then, added to that, it's on plaster, bells start ringing. I was so sure. I didn't even bother to go to Vienna." He snapped it up for £8,000, ignoring the £1,000-estimate. Dealers suggest its value might be £300,000.

Verrio's walls depicted

scenes from the life of Edward III and the Black Prince, while Charles II took pride of place on the ceiling. Its history after 1829 was a mystery, Sir Christopher said. One theory is that Wyattville himself might have saved it, another portrait of Charles II is known to have been owned by him.

During the restoration of St George's Hall, various fragments of Verrio's work have been uncovered, primarily along the top half of the walls. There is nothing, however, to compare with the portrait.

Verrio (1630-1707), was born in Lecce, southern Italy, and

trained in Naples and Paris. He came to England in 1672 and was taken into royal service, receiving commissions for Windsor, Whitehall and Hampton Court. His reputation, however, suffered at the hands of the art historian Ellis Waterhouse, whose 1962 study, *Painting in Britain, 1530-1790*, gently mocks him: "Verrio perhaps counts as the most heavily remunerated painter in Britain up to the time of Sir John Millais. It suggests some reflections on the British character that he is also one of the worst."

Verrio's reputation has since improved. Kathryn Barron, a curator of paintings with the Royal Collection, said: "A lot of what survives was painted late in his career. He went blind and probably should have stopped painting then. Some of the earlier rooms at Windsor that can still be seen are extremely beautiful. Whatever the quality of his painting, he did introduce this new style of Baroque decoration to England. He was terribly influential."

She added that the Royal Collection has 14 paintings of Charles II: "Of those, only five are considered particularly important. This is a particularly vivacious portrait."



Sir Christopher Lloyd, Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, and the Verrio portrait

CID named as worst for sexual harassment

By PAUL WILKINSON

SEXUAL and racial harassment was yesterday alleged to be widespread in a police force, with the CID among the main culprits.

Independent researchers commissioned in South Yorkshire by the Police Federation and the civilian staff union, Unison, found that up to one in eight women were victims of sexual harassment. Virtually all women officers attached to the CID had been harassed.

"Touching was the most serious form of physical sexual harassment reported by female respondents," said the report, based on interviews with 228 people. "Much of the touching behaviour verged on or amounted to minor criminality."

Among allegations of racial harassment was a claim that a superintendent told a colleague: "You only got this job because of your brown face".

Richard Wells, the chief constable, announced measures to combat the problem, including training officers to act as "advisers" to victims. He said: "If the level of inappropriate behaviour is serious, and if the evidence is there, I will sack people."

Six jail alerts in 22 weeks revealed

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Prison Service faced six serious incidents of threatened disorder, including three at top security jails, during the first five months of the year, according to internal documents seen by *The Times*.

In each case a special command suite was opened and in two cases riot squads were sent to jails as senior officials feared indiscipline would erupt into disturbances.

Trouble was expected at Frankland jail near Durham twice in 12 days when staff thought inmates were plotting to cause trouble on the wings.

On one occasion Tornado units, special teams of riot squads, were sent to the jail, which is one of five holding the most dangerous prisoners.

In another case five teams were sent to Rochester prison in Kent when 67 immigration detainees refused to return to their cells for five hours.

At Leyhill prison in Gloucestershire, staff spotted a white van unloading bags near the perimeter fence which were found to contain six bottles of whisky, 53 of cider, 19 of lager, 18 of strong ale, cigarettes and a large bag of Chinese food.

The documents show that in the five months there were 1,539 assaults on prison staff or prisoners in the 135 jails in England and Wales, 494 absconds and 184 failures to return after temporary release. There were 3,521 drug finds, 14 escapes, 31 suicides and 387 attempted suicides and 33 incidents of concerted indiscipline.

David Evans, general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, said that the internal Prison Service document provided a realistic picture of the difficulties facing the service at a time when prison numbers had reached an historic high of 55,028.

Mr Evans said that increased searches and restrictions on home leave had affected the amount of illegal substances entering jails and action was needed to prevent overcrowding.

Prisoner 'had sex in front of visitors'

By OUR HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISONERS are engaging in intimate sexual behaviour with their partners in front of other families and children during visits, according to a report published today.

Prison inspectors witnessed intimate contact between an inmate at Maidstone jail and his visitor in spite of the room being monitored by security cameras and guarded by up to three prison officers. The incident is understood to have occurred towards the end of a visit when a woman visitor wearing a short skirt sat on an inmate's lap. The inspectors say that staff were reluctant to intervene to halt the fondling taking place in front of children and other families sitting at nearby tables.

Members of the board of visitors at the jail in Kent also expressed concern at similar behaviour, a report by Sir David Ramsbotham, the new Chief Inspector of Prisons, says. There appeared to be no restriction on where or how the prisoners and visitors sat at 40 tables set out in rows in the small visiting room.

"Although security cameras surveyed the room, staffing levels were insufficient to maintain control in this sensitive area," he says. "We observed intimate contact between one prisoner and his visitor. This was unacceptable, especially since there were families with children at nearby tables."

Visits are a particular problem in jails such as Maidstone that house many life and long-sentence inmates. The dilemma for prison officers is how to intervene without causing trouble in a visiting area. In many jails officers who have witnessed sexual behaviour will recommend that an inmate is put on closed visits, in which a screen separates the prisoner from his or her visitor.

In spite of the strictures on the visiting area, the report praises the purposeful regime at Maidstone jail and the good relations between staff and inmates.



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Ireland 'powerless' in war on drug barons

BY AUDREY MAGEE IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

Minister admits journalist's murderers may escape justice

THE Irish Government virtually admitted defeat yesterday in the battle against the Dublin gangs believed to be responsible for the murder of an investigative journalist.

Nora Owen, the Justice Minister, told Irish radio there was little the justice system could do to apprehend the killers of Veronica Guerin, the award-winning reporter with the Sunday Independent.

Mrs Owen said: "The sad, awful reality of this is that these people feel they can just do this without any answerability on their part. You can rest assured that the person who paid for this murder was not the person who carried it

out. They are probably the most difficult sphere of murders to solve because of the lack of any connection."

Public confidence that the Government can tackle the Dublin gangs, most of which are heavily involved in drug dealing and trafficking, is rapidly ebbing away.

Opposition parties and pressure groups demanded an overhaul of the laws governing the right to silence and bail. Thousands of people signed books of condolence and brought flowers to Ms Guerin's workplace.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said her mur-

der was an assault on democracy. He called on the Irish Parliament to reconvene next month to discuss the Dublin criminal underworld and the reaction of the State.

Ms Guerin was one of Ireland's most well-known crime reporters. She wrote regularly about Dublin criminals and one of them is believed to have ordered her murder. Known as the Warehouse Man, he is a drugs baron who lives on a country estate on the outskirts of Dublin.

Mrs Owen said that all resources would be made available to find Ms Guerin's

murderer. About 100 detectives and uniformed police were sifting through information on suspects yesterday. A post-mortem examination showed that Ms Guerin was shot five times in the upper body with a handgun. It is understood that the killer may have come from Britain, possibly Scotland.

The Garda Federation, which represents members of the police force, said Mrs Owen should set up a task force to deal with "the godfathers of crime".

Frank Gunn, the president, said the task force should be properly funded and equipped and govern-

ment departments such as the Revenue Commissioners should be involved in apprehending criminals.

"There is no sufficient deterrent there for these criminals, who think they can issue death edicts on defenceless human beings," he said.

Ms Guerin, who was awarded the International Press Freedom Award last year, is the first Irish journalist to be murdered. Some of her colleagues have faced death threats in the past. Paul Williams, a crime writer with the Sunday World, said he would do what he could to upset the "cosy lives" of the criminals. "When it comes down to the wire, this is the greatest body blow to democracy this country has ever seen," he said.

Leading article, page 21

NEWS IN BRIEF

Killer son is sent to Broadmoor

A youth aged 19 was yesterday ordered to be detained at Broadmoor for killing his mother in a frenzied attack. He gouged her eyes out with a carpet sweeper handle, Robert Layne, from Dulwich, south London, believed his mother favoured his younger sister, the Old Bailey was told.

He stabbed and beat her round the head at least 29 times. Layne denied murdering Linda Pennell at her home in New Cross, south London, in December 1994, but admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility. He had convictions for 21 burglaries, robberies and assaults.

Fraudster jailed

A man was jailed for 21 months after faking a pensioner's will to get a £130,000 share of his estate. John Moore, 59, of Hurley, Berkshire, had denied forgery charges. An earlier will bequeathed only £3,000 to Moore, Reading Crown Court was told.

Trolleys stay put

Asda, which loses supermarket trolleys worth £500,000 each year, is testing a new model whose back wheels lock when they go over a series of small studs embedded around the store's perimeter. Trials at Asda's Sunderland store are proving a success.

Trial collapses

An Irish murder trial collapsed after allegations that police had suppressed documents. The judge at the Central Criminal Court in Dublin released Frederick Flannery, 35, who was accused of the 1994 murder of Patrick O'Driscoll in Cork.

Beeline for store

A swarm of 50,000 bees forced a Marks & Spencer store to shut for more than three hours in Newport, Gwent. The bees were following a queen looking for a new home but no one was stung. A beekeeper lured the swarm into a box containing honeycomb.

Cantona scores

Eric Cantona, the Manchester United footballer, won his High Court battle to stop a wine company based in Cheshire using his name on its bottles. Cantona French Wines used a label displaying a crest and a No 7 soccer shirt similar to the one he wears.

Bells appeal

Stockport council in Greater Manchester has lifted a Friday evening bellringing ban and agreed to soundproof the bell tower at St Elisabeth's Parish Church in Reddish. Inspectors banned bellringing practice two years ago after loud pealing had annoyed neighbours.



Murder victim Veronica Guerin and her son, Cathal

Four gang leaders head the suspect list

AT LEAST four big gangs are fighting for control of the Dublin drugs trade. The underworld has splintered in the two years since the IRA murder of Martin Cahill, nicknamed The General, who previously controlled the city's underworld.

He was shot dead in August 1994 as he went to exchange videos. The IRA alleged he was involved with loyalist paramilitaries. He was the terrorists' last victim before their announcement of a ceasefire.

Since Cahill's murder, there have been 11 contract killings. Veronica Guerin's death is the first not linked to gangland warfare. Her killers will have been hitmen employed by one or more of the gang leaders she wrote

about. The men who organised the "hit" will have ensured that they had secure alibis at 1pm on Wednesday when the killing took place.

Ms Guerin wrote extensively about the criminals, their profits and their lifestyles. At the time of her death, she had been researching an article on a gangland figure known to be making huge profits from Ecstasy and cannabis.

Dublin has more heroin addicts than most other EU capitals, with about 5,000 registered heroin users and about 3,000 who are unregistered. Since the mid-1980s, when the heroin situation spiralled out of control, drugs have been a very profitable business. The heroin business is supplemented

by huge earnings from Ecstasy and cannabis resin.

There are four main suspects behind Ms Guerin's murder and she had written about them all. Each of them has become known by a nickname.

The Warehouse Man acquired his nickname because of raids on warehouses and lorries ten years ago. He is now heavily involved in drug dealing, and is said to control the rave scene in Dublin. A multimillionaire, he lives the life of landed gentry on the outskirts of the capital, regularly holidays in the Mediterranean and sends his child to a private school. He may have worked with another Dublin criminal to have Ms Guerin removed.

The Coach is a heroin dealer. It is understood that he called Ms Guerin to warn her to back off writing about the Warehouse Man.

The Mook is a gangland boss and former IRA member. He once masterminded a £2.8 million raid on a Brinks-Allied depot in Dublin. In the past two or three years he has directed most of his criminal proceeds into legitimate businesses.

The Walrus is currently in Amsterdam after sustained police investigations into his activities. From south Dublin, he dealt in cannabis resin and Ecstasy before he had to leave the country. Ms Guerin wrote about him quite extensively. He is now believed to be attempting to supply cannabis and heroin to Irish and British criminals.

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I am victim of Troubles, says Prince

THE Prince of Wales spoke yesterday of the IRA murder of Earl Mountbatten of Burma, his great-uncle, when questioned in Londonderry about the 1972 Bloody Sunday shootings by The Parachute Regiment (Nicholas Watts writes).

On the final day of his visit to Northern Ireland, the Prince told the nationalist Deputy Lord Mayor that he was among those who had lost relatives during the Troubles. Lord Mountbatten died in a bomb attack on his boat off Mullaghmore, Co Sligo, in 1979.

Martin Bradley, a member of the SDLP, had asked the Prince whether he had read a letter handed to officials from families of the 13 victims of Bloody Sunday. Nationalists object to the Prince because he is Colonel-in-Chief of The Parachute Regiment.

Mr Bradley said afterwards: "He told me that we must remember that we have all lost relatives, including himself. He said we should not bear grudges."

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Mergus turgidus (Common Hoodlum)

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Union accused of scrapping 'too critical' history

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE National Union of Teachers is scrapping an official history it had commissioned to mark its 125th anniversary because the book is too critical, the author claimed yesterday.

The union had been planning to publish the history of its past 25 years before next Easter. But five months after the 80,000-word manuscript was delivered on time to the union, it is still with Doug McAvoy, the general secretary, and has yet to be seen by the committee organising the anniversary celebrations.

Stephen Bates, the *Guardian* journalist who completed the book in January, said Mr McAvoy had cancelled nine separate meetings to discuss changes sought by the union. Bates now understood that a decision had been taken not to publish, although he had not been notified officially.

Bates was guaranteed editorial independence when he was commissioned to write the history, entitled *Put to the Test*, last September. But there was alarm at NUT headquarters when the manuscript arrived. Summing up the union's reduced standing, the first page began: "It has been a very great fall."

The introductory chapter went on to chart the union's decline since 1970, when both Margaret Thatcher, then Education Secretary, and Harold Wilson, Leader of the Opposition, attended a centenary dinner. The union had since lost almost half its members



Bates says that his book is not unfair

and its influence, something unlikely to alter under a Labour government.

The book project has a budget of £175,000, with the union planning to give away up to 15,000 copies. It is understood that some £20,000 has already been paid to the author and publishers.

A union spokeswoman insisted yesterday that the union still expected to publish the book. But she admitted that no date had been set and no meetings were scheduled to discuss the project.

Officials warned Bates that he might be asked to tone down some sections. Criticisms of Fred Jarvis, a former general secretary, for being "verbose" and of Max Morris, a former president, for using bad language, were thought likely to be unacceptable to the NUT executive.

Mr McAvoy wrote to Bates in March, confirming that there were two issues he wished to discuss and offering "congratulations on produc-

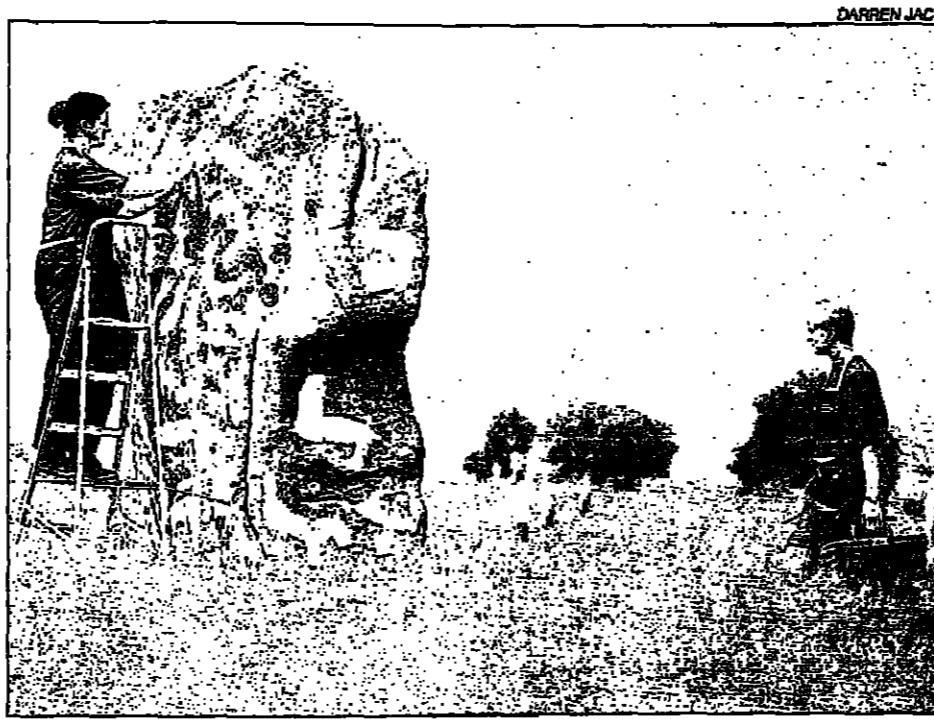
ing such an immensely readable and perceptive manuscript". But Bates said yesterday there had been no detailed discussions and no contact with the union for a month.

The NUT has had a series of stormy conferences in recent years and attracted criticism over its boycott of national curriculum tests, all of which is chronicled in the anniversary book. But Bates said: "The tone of the book is not overwhelmingly critical and I certainly do not think it is unfair."

The influence of the Left on the national executive has increased this year, making it less likely to sanction publication. A spokeswoman said: "The manuscript is with the general secretary and is to go to the appropriate committee. Projects do get delayed by other urgent issues."

The NUT might soon be overtaken as the largest teaching union by the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers. Bates, the *Guardian's* European editor and former education editor, said the NUT appeared nervous at the book's possible impact on its recruitment war with the NASUWT. Should it decide not to go ahead, he would seek alternative publishers.

Education, pages 37, 38



Conservation experts beginning the painstaking task of removing graffiti from the Avebury stone circle in Wiltshire yesterday. Satanists or New Age travellers were blamed after eight stones were painted with primitive symbols last week

Scientists claim totem poles once stood on Stonehenge site

By CAROL MIDDLEY

THE site of Stonehenge may have been used for spiritual worship more than 5,000 years before the stone circles were built on Salisbury Plain. Deep holes found beneath the new visitors' car park at the site suggest totem poles made from pine, similar to those used by North American Indians, were erected there. Carbon dating has shown that the holes, 5ft deep and 4ft wide, were made in

about 8000 BC, perhaps establishing the site as a place of mystic significance for future generations.

The discovery may help to solve one of Stonehenge's enduring mysteries: why the monument stands in such an apparently arbitrary place.

Dr Mike Allen, the environmental manager of Wessex Archaeology which excavated the site said: "People in those days tended to live near food and water in a river valley, but the site is not like that.

Perhaps cutting down the trees to make a clearing all those years before left a vegetational scar, or maybe there was some remembrance of it being a site of special significance."

Dr Geoffrey Wainwright, chief archaeologist for English Heritage, said the poles were erected by a pre-agricultural community foraging for game, animals, fruit and berries, "probably as a mark of respect for gods or dead chiefs".

Sliced prices put bakers on dole

By ROBIN YOUNG

CUTS in the price of bread offered by the big supermarkets are driving Britain's craft bakers out of business, resulting in losses in jobs and consumer choice. Prices have been as low as 19p for a 800g loaf in some discount outlets, compared with a corner-shop price of 74p.

Britain is alone in Europe in not offering protection to its craft bakers. The National Association of Master Bakers, having seen its membership fall from 5,000 to fewer than 2,000 in a decade, wants the Office of Fair Trading to intervene. Promotions include: Asda: fresh sirloin steak £9.59

£1.79 for six. Budgets: unsmoked rindless Dutch back bacon rashers £1.99 for 400g. Harry Ramsden's Chip Shop oven cod steaks £1.99 for four, Robinsons: Barley Water lemon/orange 99p for 750ml. Co-op: British beef rump steak £7.49 kg, potato cheese and onion pasties 95p for four, frozen broccoli spears £1.59 for 907g.

Harrods: fresh tuna £1.44 for 100g, swordfish £1.82 for 100g, smoked quail's eggs £3.99 per dozen. English herb ham on the bone £1.80 for 100g. Iceland: Southern fried chicken bucket £4.49 for 1145g, garlic and herb marinade

chicken £1.49 for 215g, trout £2.99 for 800g, garden peas £1.79 for 1.81kg. Marks & Spencer: oak-smoked salmon £2.99 for 125g, English strawberries £1.99 for 460g, Italian-style salad £1.39 for 125g, Californian-style salad £1.59 for 125g. Morrisons: chicken breast supreme £8.36 kg, cleaned salmon £1.79 lb, tuna steaks £4.35 lb, whole trout £1.29 lb. Safeway: chicken breast fillets £4.15 for 595g, Cumberland sausages £1.39 for 454g, had-dock fillets £2.99 for 600g, in-store baked farmhouse bread 49p for 400g. Sainsbury's: beef top rump £4.18 kg, pork bone in loin chops £3.99 kg, cucumbers 55p each, small yellow melons 79p each, peaches £1.49 for ten, 400g strawberries and 284 ml double cream £1.79. Somerfield: Lincolnshire sausages 99p for 454g, whole salmon £2.17 lb, new potatoes 8p lb, Little Gem lettuce 38p a pack, Golden Delicious apples 99p for 1.4kg, peaches 99p a punnet. Tesco: top rump/silverside joints £4.99 kg, skinless chicken breast fillets £6.89 for 820g, turkey steaks £5.95 kg, new potatoes 16p lb, premium bread 53p for 2600g. Waitrose: Mediterranean sausages £2.58 for 12, whole salmon £2.69 lb, large dressed Cromer crabs £2.49 each, light olive oil £2.55 for 500ml, pistachio nuts £2.79 for 350g.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

UNCOMFORTABLE READING

Extracts from Stephen Bates's unpublished book:

For most of the past 25 years, during the professional life of many of its members, the NUT has been an organisation at war with itself, divided in its counsels and uncertain of the path it should follow. It has been denigrated and its importance considerably reduced.

The onfist attack on Labour's Education spokesman at the union's 1995 conference underlined for many the NUT's sad decline in public esteem. The sight of David Blunkett — a blind and therefore particularly vulnerable figure — having to be locked in a room for his own protection while Socialist Workers' Party extremists screamed at him and hammered on the window was a most potent and shocking image.

No longer the most dominant

or visionary voice in education, the NUT now represents fewer than half the teachers in England and Wales — 198,000 out of more than 400,000.

Neil Kinnock, as sturdy a supporter of the profession as anyone, said: "The NUT has not managed to translate the respect of the public for individual teachers into a respect for teachers collectively and that should be a major part of the strategy."

Carol Regan [the NUT president] said: "We don't believe that Doug is addressing the issues that concern the membership. Mr McAvoy would like to be in a position of influence on a Labour government... We don't want to water our policies down to accommodate Labour."

The NUT and its leadership have been the hapless authors, if rarely the masters, of their fate.

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Court says councils have duty to fund community care

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

COUNCILS must provide community care whether or not they have enough money, the Court of Appeal said in a landmark judgment yesterday. The ruling contradicts government advice that councils are within their rights to prune services if they are short of money.

The majority verdict means that thousands of disabled people will be able to reclaim community care that has been withdrawn because of spending cuts. The judges rejected Gloucestershire County Council's argument that government funding cuts justified it in withdrawing services from 1,500 people.

The court rejected the Health Department's view, represented at the hearing, that a council should be able to take resources into account when it assessed an individual's need for care. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted.

Lord Justice Swinton Thom-

as said: "The local authority is not entitled to take into account the availability or otherwise of resources when carrying out a decision as to whether... to meet the needs of a disabled person."

The Public Law Project, which brought the test case on behalf of Michael Barry, 80, of Gloucester, a heart attack victim, said that the judgment was the most important so far on the rights of the disabled to community care services.

Stephen Cragg, the project's solicitor, said: "This is a wonderful victory for all those disabled people in receipt of services provided under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Act. Those services are now guaranteed and cannot be removed or reduced, whatever happens to a council's resources. Once a disabled person is assessed as needing a service, the service now must be supplied. There will be thousands of disabled people around the country whose

services have been withdrawn or reduced over the last two years.

"Those people now have the right to have those services restored if their needs have not changed. No doubt this case will have resource implications for local authorities and that is something they will have to take up the Department of Health."

The council said it was concerned by the judgment and intended to appeal, although this would be expensive. Stephen Thorpe, the acting director of social services, said: "This decision will not only cause confusion and uncertainty within Gloucestershire but will also undermine social services across the country. In effect it means that we will have to provide services even if we do not have the money to do so. This cannot be right. We regret that any rationing of services is necessary, but this has been forced upon us."

Bubble children into the open

By PAUL WILKINSON

A GROUP of children who have had to live for months inside sterile plastic bubbles came together yesterday for a party to thank the doctors who kept them alive against the odds.

The "bubble children", as they are known, were all born with Scids, severe combined immune deficiency syndrome, which leaves them without the body's natural defences against even the most minor ailment. A parental kiss could have been fatal.

They were kept isolated in their bubbles, in some cases for years, while specialists at Newcastle upon Tyne General Hospital built up their immune systems through bone marrow transplants.

Among those at the party in Newcastle, held to mark three years of the Bubble Baby Appeal, was Zara Albright, 3, who returned home to Birmingham last year after spending her first 2½ years in a bubble, and Cathlin Scullion, 2, from Gateshead, who has also been treated successfully for the condition.



Party time: Cathlin Scullion and Zara Albright were both treated successfully

Thousands alerted in smear-test inquiry

By IAN JENKINS

THOUSANDS of women have been told that the results of their cervical smear tests may be incorrect. A member of the screening staff at a Norfolk hospital has been suspended.

The results of 8,200 tests, some dating from 1993, are being rechecked by the James Paget Hospital at Gorleston. The women come from 29 GP practices in the Yarmouth and Waveney areas.

An independent inquiry has been launched. Doubts about the accuracy of results first surfaced in February, but were confirmed only in the past few days.

The staff member concerned was said to be someone with more than ten years' experience "who had been performing under par". Mike Pollard, chief executive, said: "The hospital had identified a problem and has taken resolute action to address it."

No one tested this year is affected and all checks are expected to be completed by July 11. So far, two women have been asked to take a further test.

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MEDICAL BRIEFING

It's official: our politicians really are fit for office

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, when I was in the House of Commons, medical research workers showed that the MPs likely to die younger than their contemporaries in the outside world were those in marginal seats, or in their first term. Since Norwich South, my seat, had a majority of a few hundred and it was my first Parliament, the findings were not reassuring.

The British Heart Foundation has recently been studying those factors that make patients change their lifestyle, and as part of the survey has been studying the way MPs keep healthy. It is difficult enough for the whips' office anxiously to study the machinations in Sir George Gardner's seat in Reigate without having to worry about needless by-elections as the result of neglected health.

There are grounds for reassurance in the whips' office. Only a fifth of the members interviewed smoked, compared with two-fifths of the general population. Members make full use of the medical facilities provided in the House. Doctors recommend that everyone in middle age and older should have their blood pressure measured annually, and MPs seem to be more aware of this precaution than do their constituents. Half of the members have their blood pressure taken every six months, and a quarter every year.

Members are 10 per cent more likely to exercise than are the general population but when they do, it is for a rather shorter period.

Members may be motivated by a desire to be fit enough to walk through the lobbies at each vote, and be able to fight on the hustings next time. What motivates the general public?

Two-fifths of the adults interviewed said they would take more exercise if only their doctors showed them statistics which made it obvious that it was worthwhile in terms of avoiding heart disease. The ordinary man or woman in the street, or in the pub, could it seems be discouraged from drinking too much by pressure from friends, or by pictures of a liver-destroyed by alcohol.

The amount of exercise anybody took was as much determined by their sexual partner as by their own determination. The sight of a flabby belly inspired people to drink less and take exercise more than any other motivating force.

A cardiologist said to me last week that death from coronary thrombosis was "optional". This was an exaggeration but such a thrombosis can be postponed by stopping smoking, by half-an-hour's brisk but not violent walking daily, by having half a bottle of claret in the evening, and by keeping the blood pressure at normal limits.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORE

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مكتبة الأصيل

Consultant did not tell health chiefs that he had HIV

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A DOCTOR disclosed yesterday that he has had the Aids virus for the past three years, during which time he worked for several Scottish health boards without telling them of his condition.

Dr Sandy Logie, 57, a retired consultant physician from Melrose, contracted the virus from infected blood while working in Zambia. He spoke of his guilt at not disclosing that he had been diagnosed as HIV positive to the health boards which employed him, but said it had been on the advice of his local board, Borders. His account of his illness is published in today's *British Medical Journal* as "Coming Out — a personal dilemma".

Dr Logie was advised by the Aids team at Borders Health Board to tell as few people as possible about his condition after his diagnosis. He was told there was no need to inform employers before taking up short-term posts as a locum consultant if he followed the Department of Health's guidelines and carried out no invasive procedures.

A spokesman for Borders Health Board said yesterday that Dr Logie's work practice had been monitored closely over the past three years and no patients or staff had been put at risk.

A helpline has been set up

(0800 281239) to reassure the public but the health authority has no plans to contact individual patients. "The doctor informed the health board in the Borders as soon as he knew he was HIV positive. With their agreement he was allowed to continue working, provided that he did nothing that would put any patient at risk," a statement said.

"Telling patients might have made them worried about getting infected and there was no cause for worry as there was absolutely no risk."

Dr Logie took early retirement at 53 but continued to undertake short periods of locum work for the health boards in Lothian, Argyll and Clyde, Western Isles, Dumfriesshire and Galloway and the Isle of Man. They were unaware of his condition. The hospitals he worked in included: Borders General; Stornoway; Oban County; Lorn and Islands District; the Royal Infirmary in Dumfries; Western General and the Royal Victoria in Edinburgh; and Noble's in Douglas.

He told a press conference yesterday that he contracted the virus when he and his wife Dorothy, also a doctor, were working in Zambia three years ago. While treating a patient, he sustained a needle stick injury and shortly afterwards was exposed twice to blood which was HIV positive.

Six weeks later he fell ill with a non-specific fever and, on his return to Britain, tested positive for HIV.

His initial reaction to the news was one of numbness, but a camping holiday in the Lake District helped him to come to terms with the situation. Yesterday he said: "My state of health at the moment is that I am HIV positive, but do not have Aids. I feel reasonably fit, but my immunity is not good."

He has had dark periods in the past year. In October, after another visit to Africa, he became ill and lost a lot of weight. "During the long watches of nocturnal, insomnia I sometimes feared that I was at the start of a slippery slide into chronic ill health and that my days were numbered. Restored to health, I now have to plan for an uncertain future."

Dr Logie writes in the *BMJ* that he wants to continue practising medicine. After his diagnosis he says there were two immediate problems: whom to tell and what to do with the rest of his life.

"The advice of the Aids team of my local health board was didactic: the fewer people who knew the better, and provided that I did not perform any invasive procedures, there was no reason why I should not continue to practice as a physician and, perhaps controversially, there was no need to tell people of my HIV status before doing short-term consultant locum posts," he said.

"I have had several such appointments without disclosing my state (but feel guilty about it). I have closely followed the advice of the Department of Health's Expert Advisory Group on Aids so I am confident that no patients have been put at risk."

Concealing it had been a big strain. "My wife and I have told no lies, but it is increasingly difficult to field queries about my health, my recent illnesses and my future plans." His wife, a former GP in Earlsfont and now a medical adviser for the Borders Health Board, has tested negative for HIV.



The Princess of Wales at yesterday's briefing with Aileen Getty, who is HIV positive

Aids specialists deny that disease is confined to gays

By Alan Hamilton

THE Princess of Wales was told yesterday that, contrary to recent suggestions, heterosexual infection is the fastest-growing way of contracting Aids and HIV in Britain.

The Princess, who is patron of the National Aids Trust, was attending a briefing on the disease in London, accompanied by Aileen Getty, 36, daughter of the billionaire arts patron J. Paul Getty. Ms Getty was diagnosed as being HIV positive after an affair while married to Chris Wilding, a son of Elizabeth Taylor.

Ms Getty was one of the first women to be diagnosed as HIV positive more than a decade ago. She was invited by the Princess to attend yesterday's briefing. The two women also met HIV sufferers at the clinic.

Their visit coincided with an announcement by Dr Mark Nelson, HIV consultant at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, that trials with the drug Neupogen,

which increases the body's white blood cell count, had proved promising in treating HIV.

The drug is designed to combat neutropenia, a failure of the immune system which leaves many sufferers vulnerable to serious opportunistic infection. Treatment with the drug reversed the sharp fall in the white blood cell count, reducing the risk of infection. "Hopefully, it will lead to improvements in both quality and quantity of life," Dr Nelson said.

Gay leaders have launched a campaign against suggestions that Aids is restricted to homosexuals. Last week Jamie Taylor, an Aids charity worker, told BBC Radio that homosexuals feared money to combat Aids would dry up if the affliction was seen as a predominantly gay disease.

Valerie Grove, page 19

Doctors who breach the rule forbidding sex with patients must continue to face the severest penalties, the British Medical Association decided yesterday.

After a week of speculation that one of the main pillars of the profession's ethical code was to be swept aside, the annual meeting of the BMA in Brighton voted overwhelmingly to preserve an absolute prohibition on sexual relationships between doctors and patients.

Doctors agreed that any weakening of the rule outlawing affairs with patients would undermine public trust and irreparably damage the profession. Under the existing ethical code, backed by the Hippocratic oath, doctors are forbidden to take advantage of the weak or vulnerable. Any doctor who becomes emotionally involved with a patient is required to remove the patient from the practice list before pursuing the relationship.

Dr Michael Crowe, a GP in Leicestershire, pleaded for more understanding of the social difficulties faced by rural doctors in meeting people who were not their patients. He cited the case of a doctor in Lincolnshire who was suspended from the medical register after having an affair with a married patient whose husband complained to the General Medical Council when the affair ended. The doctor's son, also a GP, later committed suicide.

"Half of that doctor's patients felt the suspension was too harsh. They were apparently prepared to forgive him for one error," Dr Crowe said.

He added that he was seeking a minor change in the penalties where there were exceptional circumstances and called for suspensions to be preceded by an official warning.

Dr Crowe's proposal was criticised by a series of speakers. Dr Sam Everington, a GP in east London, said: "It is not acceptable for male and female doctors to abuse the positions of power and influence they often hold over their patients."

Doctors retain ban on sex with patients

By Jeremy Laurance

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Suntan lotions 'may add to risk of cancer'

By Jeremy Laurance

SUNTAN lotions may increase the risk of skin cancer because they encourage people to lie in the sun longer, scientists say.

Although the lotions prevent sunburn they are less effective at preventing skin cancer. However, many people wrongly believe that as long as they avoid burning they will avoid getting cancer.

Dr Jane McGregor and Dr Anthony Young, of St John's Institute of Dermatology at St Thomas's Hospital, central London, say in the *British Medical Journal* that users of sunscreens are being lulled into a false sense of security.

"A sunscreen's ability to prevent sunburn is designated by its sun protection factor ... which is widely perceived as how many times longer it takes to obtain a mild sunburn, the skin's early warning system. All protection is lost if sunscreens are used to prolong sun exposure to the maximum achievable by the sun protection factor so that, for example, sunburn develops over five hours instead of 30 minutes."

They argue that the marketing of sunscreens as a safe way to stay out longer in the sun may be misleading. There is evidence that this may increase the cancer risk for the same exposure dose.

Sun lotions work mainly by blocking ultraviolet B radiation, which is the chief cause of sunburn and skin cancer. There is increasing evidence that ultraviolet A radiation can also damage the skin and most lotions available in Britain now contain good ultraviolet A protection as well. Research into whether sun lotions protect against cancer have produced mixed results.

Women who develop breast cancer while taking hormone replacement therapy have a better chance of surviving it than those not on the treatment. Researchers from Manchester who studied 433 women with breast cancer report in the *BMJ* that those on HRT tended to have less aggressive tumours, associated with a higher chance of survival.



Dr Sandy Logie with his wife Dorothy, also a doctor

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Most voters believe Labour is ready for power Blair keeps public's trust despite poll ratings slip

By PETER RIDDELL

A MAJORITY of the public believes that Labour is ready to form the next government and Tony Blair is ready to be Prime Minister despite the latest drop in support for the party in a MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, suggests that although people are less hostile to the Government and to John Major they have not turned away from Labour and Mr Blair. Indeed, many supporters of other parties believe that Labour is ready for power. The poll also shows that support for Mr Blair is relatively lower in Labour strongholds such as Wales and Scotland, while he has a stronger appeal than his party in southern England.

Overall, 58 per cent agree that Labour is ready to form the next government, but this includes 30 per cent of Tory supporters and 52 per cent of Liberal Democrats. Moreover, the AB professional and managerial groups, where the Tories now have an 8-point

lead, agree that Labour is ready to form a government by a 13-point margin.

By contrast, just 32 per cent of the public believe that Labour is not ready to form the next government. The net balance of plus 26 points compares with plus 23 points when the question was last asked in January. The biggest shift in favour of Labour has occurred among those who have switched away from backing the Tories since the 1992 election and among skilled workers.

Similarly, there has been a rise since January in the net balance agreeing rather than disagreeing that Mr Blair is ready to be the next Prime Minister from plus 20 to plus 24 points. This view is even more strongly held by those who have switched to backing Labour since 1992 than among long-term Labour loyalists — a net balance of plus 78 points against plus 69. These "new" Labour switchers are by a two-to-one margin former Tories.

The poll also underlines

how Mr Blair is liked more than Labour policies. While a third of the public like him and his policies, just one in eight dislike him but like his policies. He is less popular in Labour strongholds such as Wales and Scotland, where 38 and 33 per cent respectively dislike him, than in traditional areas of Tory strength such as southern England, where 32 per cent dislike him.

Mr Major is also more popular than his policies, but in both cases the ratings are lower than for Mr Blair. The gap between Mr Major's personal standing and the unpopularity of his policies is also much larger. Mr Major is liked rather than disliked by a margin of 10 points while his policies are disliked rather than liked by minus 40 points.

The poll shows how important the economy and Europe are to swing voters. The MORI economic optimism index, measuring those who believe that the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get

worse, now stands at minus 3 points, down from minus 10 a month ago. The biggest shift was among those who have deserted the Tories since the last election, who have moved from minus 7 to plus 8 points, while among "new" Labour switchers the movement is from minus 14 to plus 4. By contrast, the index is plus 37 for Tory loyalists and minus 24 for Labour loyalists.

These switchers are more likely to mention Europe as among the most important issues facing Britain today than the public generally. An above average number of these switchers also regard education and health as important issues, and are more concerned about them than are even Labour loyalists.

MORI interviewed 1,846 adults at 144 ward sampling points between June 21 and 24. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (10 per cent), are undecided (7 per cent) or who refuse to name a party (3 per cent).

Major's only hope now is to play for time

RIDDELL
ON POLITICAL ISSUES

When I told a Cabinet minister that the latest MORI poll in *The Times* showed Tory support at its highest level since April 1993, he shrugged, "only 21 points behind them". A Tory revival is under way, at last, but there is nothing in the latest poll really to worry Labour. The public has become less fed up with the Tories, but this does not mean it is disenchanted with Labour.

The headline figures need to be treated with caution. The contrast between the 29 per cent support for the Tories before England's victory over Spain in Euro 96 last Saturday and the 33 per cent rating in the two days afterwards suggests that there may have been a temporary burst of national optimism which benefitted the Tories. And there could, of course, be a dip now.

But more important is the apparent

shift in attitudes in the Tories' direction. Previously, sharp rises in Tory support, as in January last year or last August, have mainly reflected the well-publicised internal Labour problems rather than a favourable view of the Government. The difference now is that the MORI economic optimism index has improved to its highest level since August 1994, and the Government's approval rating is at its best level since August 1992 — even though it is still heavily negative.

These shifts probably reflect lower interest rates, tax cuts and rising consumer spending and confidence. It is striking that the improvement in economic optimism has been twice the overall average among switchers,

both those who have deserted the Tories since 1992 and those now back Labour.

However, there is no real sign of any shift in attitudes against Labour. Mr Blair's personal rating remains high and since January there has been an appreciable rise in the number of switchers who believe he is ready to become Prime Minister. Moreover, four fifths of new Labour supporters say they like Mr Blair, which is more than among long-term Labour loyalists.

Even before the latest devolution rows, Mr Blair's support was relatively weakest in Labour strongholds in Wales and Scotland and noticeably firmer in marginal seats. The criticism of Mr Blair by Labour MPs has not so far affected his approval rating. But he faces one of the biggest tests of his leadership with the

publication next Thursday of the party's draft manifesto — which will give the Tories more scope to attack Labour.

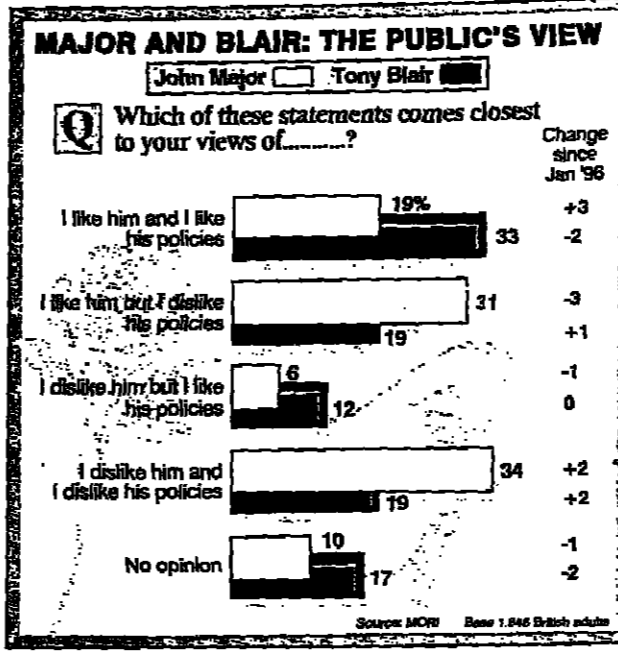
Despite the latest pick-up in Tory support, Labour's position is still much more favourable than at the same stage of the last two Parliaments. A year before the 1987 election, Labour had a six to eight-point lead over the Tories. Its biggest of the whole parliament. In spring 1991, the Tories were ahead, while over the 1991-92 winter, just before the April 9 election, Labour only had a lead of six points at most in two months. Similarly, satisfaction with the Government was not nearly as low then as even the current improved level.

This suggests that the Tories' best, indeed only, tactic is to play for time — to hope that more months of rising living standards and criticism of

weaknesses in Labour policies will narrow the gap. That is the view of virtually all senior ministers to whom I speak. Not only did they regard the press talk of beef or Euro 96 elections as silly fantasies, but they do not now favour an autumn election.

Of course, an election may be forced by events outside the Government's control. And although ministers increasingly share Kenneth Clarke's caution about the scope for tax cuts in the November Budget, they still believe that Tory prospects can only improve next year. Labour strategists also expect the gap to close. Nothing has yet happened, however, to alter the general view that the Tories will lose whenever the election is held — but probably not by a landslide.

PETER RIDDELL



John Major and Tony Blair: both leaders are better liked than their parties' policies

Maverick Tory sitting pretty after 'ugly' gibes backfire

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE maverick Tory MP Sir George Gardiner looks likely to win the bloody battle for his Reigate constituency because of a last-minute plea to his party not to oust him for being "born ugly".

Sir George, who is facing deselection at a meeting of local Tories tonight, wrote to his constituents after some of his constituents accused him of looking like "Dracula left out in the rain".

The effect of the "ugliness card" has been extraordinary and appears to have turned round the campaign. Party activists are now embarrassed that their gibes have gone too far. They feel sorry for Sir George, their MP for 22 years. His unusually humble letter said: "I am sorry about my physical appearance but I was just born ugly."

They also feel guilty about his wife, Helen, who is said to be deeply hurt by "snide" remarks that Sir George's appearance is more of a turn-off than his Euro-scepticism and hostility to John Major.

Critics have told journalists that what really annoys them about Sir George, 61, is that he is hopeless at small talk and looks like a bad-tempered bloodhound with a hangover. His decision to vote for John Redwood during the leadership campaign was just the last straw.

Even some of the 51 members who signed a letter urging people to vote against Sir George have now quietly swapped sides. Senior local officials are also horrified at the personal attacks. They are embarrassed that Reigate will appear snobbish.

Only three days ago, Sir George's supporters were saying that as long as he gives an equally self-deprecating speech tonight and does not repeat his threat to resign he will win, "especially with the ladies", who make up a large part of the 1,000 eligible to vote.

has been working flat out to prevent his deselection because he has threatened to stand down and prompt a by-election, which would wipe out the Tory majority. Yesterday Central Office admitted that the "ugliness card" had been the only successful weapon. An aide said: "MPs are not supposed to be supermodels. You don't kick them out just because they are getting a few wrinkles."

Daniel Kee, a vice-chairman and supporter, said: "It's incredible how people are rallying around Sir George. They have realised that it is

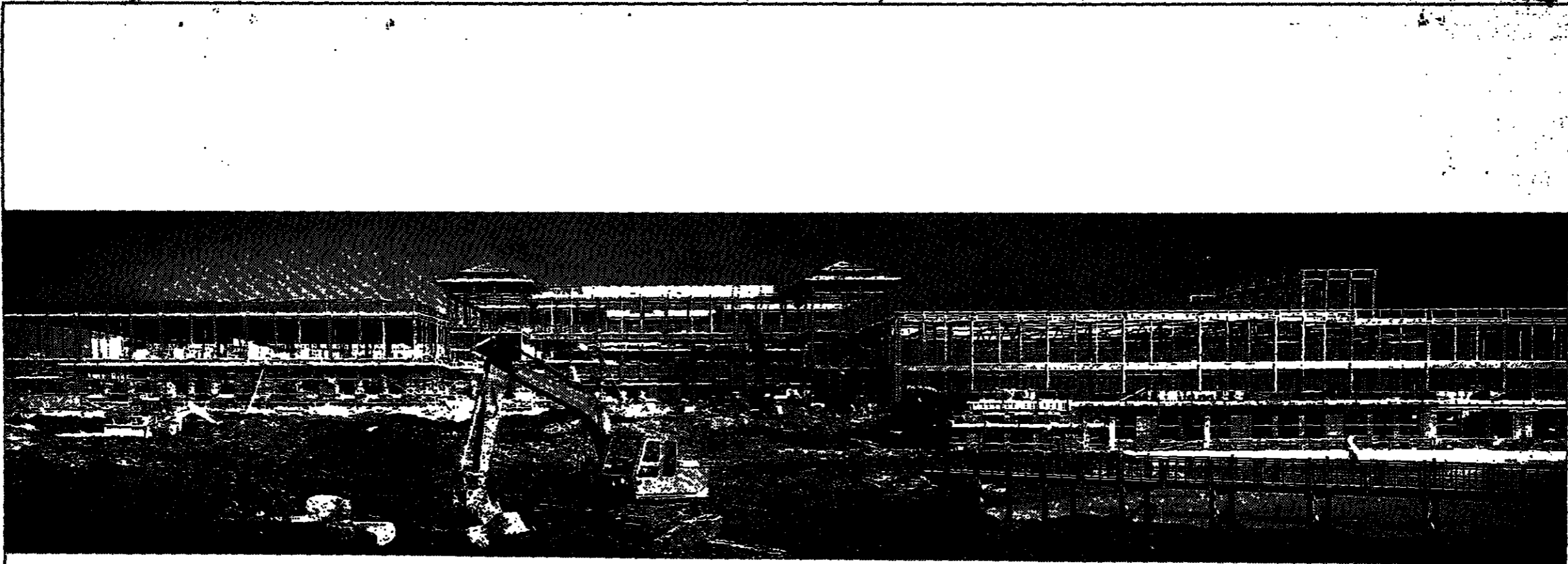


Gardiner: apologetic for his appearance

ridiculous to judge an MP on film-star looks and upper-crust manners rather than his politics and his brain."

A few die-hard rebels are adamant that Sir George should go. Several have mentioned the good-looking Sebastian Coe as a possible replacement, but he denies that he is seeking to move from his marginal seat of Falmouth and Camborne.

But Sir George's champions say that as long as he gives an equally self-deprecating speech tonight and does not repeat his threat to resign he will win, "especially with the ladies", who make up a large part of the 1,000 eligible to vote.



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Partial view of another page from the newspaper, containing various headlines and text fragments.

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ARTS 33-35

Older, but just as funny, The Odd Couple returns



SPORT 40-48

Henman swift to dismiss challenge from home front

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 46, 47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JUNE 28 1996

Ban on beef hits exports

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE beef export ban took its toll of Britain's global trade figures in April as the trade deficit widened to £1.32 billion from £765 million in March.

The increase, which was above market expectations, was principally because of a jump in the EU trade deficit from £100 million to £500 million.

Total exports rose £100 million to £13.9 billion, with a 2.5 per cent fall in exports to the EU offset by a 4 per cent rise in non-EU exports. April was the month when the beef ban took effect and the Office for National Statistics said that the ban partially accounted for the decline in EU exports.

In the three months to the end of April, the trade deficit increased from £3 billion to £3.4 billion, while exports rose 3 per cent and imports increased 4 per cent. The ONS said the deficit trend was broadly flat with both imports and exports rising.

But some economists fear that the trade deficit is set to widen further in the next few months as consumer demand begins to suck in imports and an appreciating pound hurts exports.

The trade deficit, however, has not been a priority of the Chancellor in recent years and most commentators expect the trade data to remain well down the policy agenda.

The deficit with non-EU countries, meanwhile, rose from £795 million in April to £834 million in May. Both imports and exports rose 3 per cent, with the import rise mostly accounted for by aircraft orders.

CBI warning, page 26



Doughty effort: Archie Norman, left, chief executive of Asda, and Allan Leighton, his deputy, carrying the bread at an Asda outlet in Glasgow

Asda to create 3,000 new jobs

BY CLARE STEWART

MORE THAN 3,000 jobs are to be created by Asda, the supermarket group, at eight new stores this year. Increased sales at the existing 270 outlets could also generate a further 4,000 jobs.

Details of the expansion plans came as Asda unveiled pre-tax profit up 24 per cent, to £304.6 million, a little ahead of some City forecasts. As expected, there was a strong increase in like-for-like sales growth, up by 12.1 per cent. Earnings per share jumped by 31 per cent to 7.71p, while the dividend for the year is 2.65p, up 20 per cent.

Archie Norman, chief executive, said that the results showed a fourth successive year of outperformance. "Market share rose 1 per cent, to 10.1 per cent, and customer numbers are by 10 per cent, to 5.6 million."

Asda stepped up its targeting of the healthcare market with its acquisition of ten pharmacies, nine from a pharmacy chain. No purchase price was disclosed but the additions will mean that almost half of Asda's outlets have an in-store chemist.

Mr Norman, known for his gloomy pronouncements on retailing prospects, was marginally brighter yesterday. "Demand is higher and we expect to see it improve through the year." He also predicted an easing of the supermarket wars. "We are perhaps not going to see the intensity of price warfare."

Asda's push on its own-label range included the launch of 2,000 new products to boost brand penetration from around 34 per cent to 40 per cent by 1998.

Analysts upgraded their current year forecasts, penciling in pre-tax profits between £335 million and £350 million. The shares eased 4p to 114p.

Tempus, page 28

Eurotunnel pledges to deny banks control

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

EUROTUNNEL threw down the gauntlet to the company's 225 banks yesterday by giving them a warning that they had no chance of taking a majority stake in the company.

At a rowdy annual meeting in Paris, Patrick Ponsolle, the French co-chairman, who suffered frequent angry interruptions, assured shareholders that the banks' demands that they should be given 50 per cent of the equity would be vigorously rebuffed. "The banks must know that a clear majority of the capital must remain in the hands of the present shareholders," he said.

The company had already reached a "tacit agreement" with the banks on a restructur-

ing of its near-£9 billion debt and hopes to have a formal agreement by the end of next month, he said. The agreement would involve a partial conversion of debt into shares, with the balance being paid at a reduced rate of interest. Shareholders will have free acquisition rights to reduce their dilution if they so wish, M Ponsolle said.

Eurotunnel would continue to seek to maximise its cashflow and would continue its claims against contractors and French and British railway companies, M Ponsolle added. He vowed that the restructuring would allow a "reasonable" dividend to be paid by 2004.

M Ponsolle, who will become executive co-chairman

when his British counterpart, Sir Alastair Morton, retires later this year, said that the two arbitrators — one British, one French — appointed in February to help the banks and Eurotunnel reach an agreement would continue their efforts until the end of July.

M Ponsolle went on to give warnings to the French and British Governments that it was crucial that they agreed to extend Eurotunnel's franchise beyond 2052. "We hope this will be possible in the coming weeks," he said.

Jacques Chirac, the French President, raised the possibility of extending the franchise on a recent visit to London, but the Department of Transport said this week that the British

government thought it was not in the public interest to do so.

M Ponsolle also thanked Eurotunnel shareholders for their patience in the past nine months of bank talks, which came after a decision to suspend payment of interest on most of its debt. "I ask you to be patient again for a few more weeks to see if there is an agreement with the bank. Your board and I will sign no agreement that we do not consider to be fair to shareholders," he added.

M Ponsolle said he would try to ensure that the extraordinary meeting to vote on an agreement is held in Paris. Around 70 per cent of Eurotunnel's small shareholders are French. "We would like the shareholders' support," he

said. "It is very important for negotiations."

If an agreement was not found, the legal position was unclear as French and English law differed on what would happen next, he added.

Sir Alastair, who took a back seat at the meeting but will address English shareholders in London today, said that the company's ultimate object is to increase its revenues by 50 per cent this year. "Shareholders and banks should share the product of its growing success. We must all be patient and refuse to accept the somewhat Anglo-Saxon philosophy that shareholders must be the ones to lose all."

The shares fell 3p to 104p.

City Diary, page 29

National Express plans derailed

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL EXPRESS'S ambition to build Britain's first nationwide integrated transport group was dealt a heavy blow yesterday when it was told by the Government to scrap five of its flagship long-distance coach routes.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said the company's takeover of the Midland Main Line (MML) rail franchise could lead to a "significant loss of competition" on its parallel coach routes. Acting on the advice of the Office of Fair Trading, Mr Lang said he would refer the takeover to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless National Express withdrew its direct coach services

between London and Derby, Leicester, Sheffield, Chesterfield and Nottingham.

Shares in the company, which also runs the Gatwick Express rail franchise, two regional airports and hundreds of local bus routes, tumbled 21p to 482p.

National Express said it would review the impact of the proposed undertakings before making its official response.

City analysts said the ruling was a setback but would have little long-term effect on the company's growth strategy. The five coach operations have a tiny turnover, compared with the £128 million revenues of MML, which is expected to be highly profitable.

Body Shop £12m stake sale

BY JASON NISSE

THE garage owner who 20 years ago lent Anita and Gordon Roddick £4,000 to expand their burgeoning Body Shop business yesterday sold an eighth of the stake he ended up with in the company for £12.06 million.

Ian McGlenn, who now spends much of his time sailing on his yacht, Louise II, named after his 18-year-old daughter, sold 6.7 million shares in Body Shop International to Aeon, the Japanese group, at 180p each.

Aeon, whose subsidiary Jusco is one of the largest shareholders in Laura Ashley, is also the head franchisee for Body Shop in Japan, controlling 80 outlets. A Body Shop spokeswoman said the company considered Aeon's investment as "very positive".



McGlenn: enjoys sailing

The sale leaves Mr McGlenn with 45.7 million shares, worth £81 million. He has told the Roddicks that he has no current intention of selling any more.

Mr McGlenn was given a 50 per cent stake in the business by Anita Roddick when he lent

her the money to open a second Body Shop outlet. Airdre Vaillancourt, his now estranged wife, helped the Roddicks to manage their first shop in Brighton and encouraged them to open their first franchised Body Shop in Bognor Regis.

However Mrs Vaillancourt did not do as well as Mr McGlenn. Last year she and her husband, Maurice, were reported to be facing a £39,521 claim from Barclays Bank over a Body Shop franchise they ran in Bournemouth. In her autobiography, Mrs Roddick remembers Mrs Vaillancourt toasting the success of the first Body Shop with cheap Algerian wine.

Not surprisingly Mr McGlenn no longer runs his garage in Littlehampton, having leased it out to concentrate on enjoying his good fortune.

Bonuses boost Blyth's pay past the £1m mark

BY GEORGE SIVELL

LORD BLYTH of Rowington, chief executive and deputy chairman of Boots, broke the million-pound level last year as his total pay package rose from £998,000 to £1.175 million.

Lord Blyth's basic salary was £470,000 in the year to March 31 but he enjoyed a £580,000 payment from Boots's long-term bonus scheme for directors.

The long-term bonus scheme works by comparing the performance of Boots to a league drawn up from a peer group composed of Great Universal Stores, Kingfisher, Marks & Spencer, Reckitt & Colman, J Sainsbury, Sainsbury, Smith & Nephew, SmithKline Beecham, Tesco and WH Smith.

Directors get a bonus equal to 90 per cent of their annual salary if the company occupies any of the top three places in the league table. The percentage falls progressively to 65 per cent for fourth and 55 per cent for fifth, down to

25 per cent for occupying eighth place and zero if Boots falls to either ninth, tenth or eleventh place in the table.

Lord Blyth also received £105,000 under a short-term bonus scheme, which pays out if directors achieve certain budgetary targets during the financial year in question.

Boots, which recently took full control of Do It All, the do-it-yourself business, by buying the WH Smith stake for a nominal sum, also completed a near £300 million buy-back of shares yesterday. The company announced that it had bought 51.36 million of its own shares in the market at 580p each. The manoeuvre left the shares unchanged at 581p.

Lord Blyth still has 410,000 share options to exercise at prices from 399p up to 531p under the now defunct executive share option scheme.

Tempus, page 28

Lenders told by Bank to get tough with borrowers

BY ROBERT MILLER AND SARAH JONES

PEN KENT, one of the Bank of England's most senior directors, last night called on lenders to be more vigilant in enforcing credit standards, as Bradford & Bingley, one of Britain's leading home loan providers, withdrew all its one-year mortgage discount packages.

John Wriglesworth, a director of Bradford & Bingley, said that the building society's decision was based on earlier concerns raised by Eddie George, the Bank's Governor. Mr Wriglesworth said: "The move to axe our one-year discounts has been taken in the interests of more prudent lending and to prevent our new mortgage customers from saddling themselves with the shock of higher rates after the short-term discount expires."

In a speech yesterday to a conference on credit standards, Mr Kent, an executive director of the Bank of England, reinforced the Governor's earlier warnings. He said: "In my view the

pricing of credit risk in the past has not been studied with sufficient rigour." Mr Kent outlined recurring themes that should help the corporate and personal lending market to avoid "some of the traps of the past". He said, for example, that there was a general lack of information for those who granted the credit and for those who then monitor the results.

The Governor's warning, coupled with Mr Kent's second shot across the bows, is likely to curtail what is seen in official circles as overly generous mortgage discounts and cash-back offers, some of which have been worth up to £9,000. In spite of the generally more optimistic figures coming out of the housing market, which point to a reasonably sustainable, if patchy, recovery, there are concerns that with too many mortgage providers chasing a finite amount of business risk-lending criteria will be loosened.

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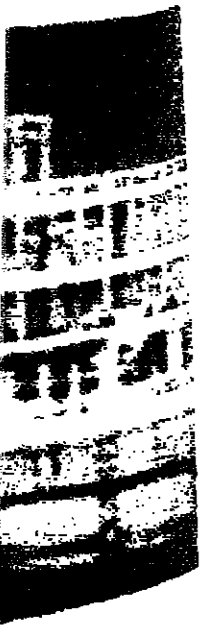
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TIMES 28/9/96



CBI gives warning against tax cuts

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

TAX cuts could unbalance the economy, the Confederation of British Industry said last night in a clear warning against pre-election economic boosts.

The message came after one of Britain's key sectors, the engineering industry, said that growth is now slackening markedly to its slowest rate for more than two years.

Britain's business leaders are preparing their submissions to the pre-Budget process of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and industry will argue for continued economic stability in spite of the looming general election.

In advance of that, Aair Turner, the CBI's Director-General, gave a strong warning against tax cuts. Current levels of public borrowing were unlikely to give any scope for "significant" tax cuts, he said. He went further by suggesting that, in any case, the economy did not need them.

Speaking to business leaders in the South East, Mr Turner said there was likely to be little need to stimulate consumer spending with cuts in personal taxes, and there were dangers that large cuts could unbalance the economy.

He said: "Consumer expenditure has grown by 2.5 per cent over the last year, sales of household goods are picking up and the housing market is starting to stir. And looking forward we expect further acceleration, with robust consumer spending growth next year, even without any tax cuts."

The focus needed to remain on competitiveness, productivity and investment for long-term growth, avoiding any return to the "unsustainable" consumer booms of the past. He said: "Whatever the temptations of a pre-election year, we'll be urging the Chancellor to stick to his belief that good economics is good politics."

Engineering businesses said yesterday that, in the light of a clear slackening of growth in their industry, they would be pressing the Chancellor for policies to support sustainable growth, including new incentives for investment and training. The EEF engineering employers, in their latest Business Trends, said that, after two years of slow but sure growth in the industry, engineering growth was now markedly slackening.

In a survey of almost 1,800 engineering companies, seasonally adjusted total output fell back from a net balance of 21 per cent of firms seeing output rising in the first three months of this year to only 6 per cent — by far the slowest rate of growth for nine quarters.

Output actually fell in two key engineering regions, the West Midlands and the North West, leading the EEF to suggest that output nationally in the industry overall may well be negative in the coming quarter.

Graham Mackenzie, EEF director-general, acknowledged the fallback but said engineering companies were suggesting that "the slackening in growth is no more than a pause".

Court case setback for Butte

By Jason Nisse

BUTTE Mining, which sold its last operating company three years ago, yesterday received a setback when the High Court threw out an action against Ernst & Young, the accountant, for £110 million. The news led to Butte's shares being suspended at just 1.5p.

David Lloyd-Jacob, Butte's chairman, said it would appeal against the ruling by Mr Justice Lightman and expects the appeal to be heard next year, along with a smaller related case Butte is pursuing against the firm.

Ernst & Young is claiming more than £1 million in unpaid fees from Butte.

The actions all relate to the flotation of Butte in 1987 and the purchase of three businesses at which deficiencies later surfaced. Butte called in the SFO, which has charged four people with fraud.

Pennington, page 27



Profit fears: Sir Denys Henderson, chairman, right, and Andrew Teare, chief executive

Rank sees shares slip after warning

By Alasdair Murray

SHARES in Rank Organisation slumped 33p to 498p yesterday after the company said that profits in some key divisions had suffered in the first part of the year.

The City was especially worried by a 11 per cent fall in profits at Rank Xerox, the photocopier business, which Rank blamed on restructuring costs. There was also concern over profits in the film and television division, the company's second-biggest earner, which Rank said had fallen because of a decline in video prices.

Some analysts downgraded their profit forecasts after the trading statement, which covered the first five months of the year, but others pointed to the fact that Rank is always weak early in the year.

Andrew Teare, chief executive, said that details of a full strategic review would be unveiled in August. Analysts are expecting a series of disposals to help to fund the recent £270 million Hard Rock Cafe buyout.

Mr Teare described the overall picture as satisfactory. Turnover had increased and profits were boosted by a £15 million one-off recovery of R&D costs in its precision industries division. Mr Teare added that he saw some signs of an improvement in consumer spending.

Sales in the leisure division increased but with lower margins. Profits were flat at Universal Studios Florida because of increased costs associated with the launch of new attractions. Bingo admissions continued to fall after a closure programme but there was an improvement in the spend.

Turnover at Rank's cafes increased just 2 per cent, but the company will open three new Hard Rock Cafes in the second half, after the £270 million purchase of the rest of the franchise earlier this month.

Tempus, page 28

BT to create 1,000 jobs at Warrington centre

By Eric Reguly

BRITISH TELECOM is to create 1,000 jobs at a new service centre in the north of England, one of its single biggest employment gains in recent years.

The centre, in Warrington, Cheshire, will open in January and will specialise in telemarketing. BT products, from calling cards to discount packages, will be offered to customers over the phone. A

fallen to about 131,000. □ New BT customers will no longer be required to leave cash deposits of £30 to £100 before a residential service can be started. Instead, BT and the customer will agree to individual spending ceilings for call charges. "It will avoid the nasty surprise of unexpectedly high phone bills," said Ian Morlett, BT director of network services.

BT spokesman said: "Telemarketing is the single biggest sales channel we have."

The Warrington site will make BT one of the region's three biggest employers. It will require an investment of less than £10 million.

BT's overall employment is still declining, but at a much slower rate than in the early 1990s. The number peaked at 247,000 in 1989, and has since

fallen to about 131,000. □ New BT customers will no longer be required to leave cash deposits of £30 to £100 before a residential service can be started. Instead, BT and the customer will agree to individual spending ceilings for call charges. "It will avoid the nasty surprise of unexpectedly high phone bills," said Ian Morlett, BT director of network services.

The initial findings are expected to be made available

Pennington, page 27

Wickes investigates discrepancies

AN INVESTIGATION into accounting discrepancies at Wickes, the DIY retailer, was launched yesterday after the departure of Henry Sweetbaum, chairman and chief executive (Clare Stewart writes). Mr Sweetbaum, who has run

Wickes since 1982, was one of the UK's highest-paid retail chiefs. His salary package last year topped £1.2 million, including a bonus of £890,000.

Linklaters and Paine, the solicitors, and Price Waterhouse are examining Wickes's

accounts and its financial condition. The move was instigated by Stuart Stradling, finance director, who says he will resign from the board once the report is completed.

The initial findings are expected to be made available

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Financial services regulators get tough

FINANCIAL services regulators are determined to see results from the review of personal pensions mis-selling, Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, said yesterday. Introducing the SIB's annual report, he described the review of past personal pensions business as "a complex programme of work on an unprecedented scale". There had been some progress, he said, "but the blunt truth is that we are not as close to a satisfactory outcome as we would have wished".

Sir Andrew added: "We and our fellow regulators have been working, and are continuing to work hard, with the wide range of parties involved to move things on. We are determined to see results. Where a firm fails to show the necessary willingness and competence to see the review through, we will expect regulators to bring disciplinary powers to bear."

Pan Am takes flight

PAN AMERICAN World Airways is to begin service between now and September from JFK Airport in New York to three US cities considered gateways to foreign destinations. The Miami airline acquired the logo from the now defunct US carrier of the same name for \$1.5 million in 1993. The original Pan Am, the first US airline, folded in 1991 after 64 years in the air. The new company also yesterday put the finishing touches on a marketing alliance with eight small and mid-sized international carriers.

Fyffes beats winter

COLD winter weather failed to chill profits at Fyffes, the fresh produce group. Interim pre-tax profits rose 16.8 per cent to £20.8 million. Sales rose 12 per cent to £500.1 million. Despite the poor weather in Europe, "our broad spread of fresh produce, the wide range of geographic markets in which we operate and our acquisitions have enabled us to continue our growth," said Neil McCann, chairman. The interim dividend is up by 10 per cent to 10p.

EU concern over 'bug'

MARTIN BANGEMANN, the EU Industry Commissioner, will consult business and government experts about a computer programming bug that could cause havoc at the turn of the century. Herr Bangemann said he would investigate a problem that Ian Taylor, Britain's Science and Technology Minister, called a "millennium time bomb". The threat evolved because programmes use a two-digit format to show the year, making 1996 simply 96. At the turn of the century, computers will not recognise 00 or will treat it as 1900.

Ford to cut production

FORD is to halt production at its biggest UK plant on 13 separate days later in the year because of a declining export market for Fiesta vans. Workers at the Dagenham factory in Essex will only build cars and vans for four days a week when they return from the summer shutdown in August. Ford said the 5,000 workers at the body and assembly factories will still be paid full basic wages. The company said the slowdown was because of a declining market in southern Europe for the commercial version of the Fiesta.

Ideal Hardware falls 20p

SHARES in Ideal Hardware fell 20p to 603p yesterday, even though the data storage company reported a 28 per cent advance in pre-tax profits, to £7.8 million, for the year to May 3. Earnings rose 26 per cent, to 24.7p a share. A final dividend of 6.6p lifts the total 25 per cent, to 10.8p. Turnover rose 35 per cent to £138 million. The company announced the acquisition of PTI, which manufactures data storage enclosures, for a maximum consideration in excess of £3 million, and Kinexus, which produces Ideal's IT network broadcasts, for £300,000.

UK oil output ahead

UK OIL production increased slightly last month, reversing a six-month decline, according to figures released today. The increase was unexpected, since falls in production are normal in May as seasonal demand for oil declines and offshore operations begin summer maintenance schedules, said the Royal Bank of Scotland Oil and Gas Index. Oil production rose 0.2 per cent compared with April, to 2.44 million barrels per day, and also showed an increase on an annual basis of 1.5 per cent.

Lloyds bids verdict due

THE battle for Lloyds Chemists could shortly reignite. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is due to present its report into rival bids from UniChem, of Britain, and Gehe, of Germany, to the Department of Trade and Industry today for Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to deliver his verdict. The bids were referred in March because of concerns in UK pharmaceutical markets. UniChem owns 9.9 per cent of Lloyds, acquired in a dawn raid, while Gehe's offer is worth 500p a share. Lloyds' shares were unchanged at 484p yesterday.

TOURIST RATES

Bank Buys	Bank Sells	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.05	1.89	0.820
Austria Sch	17.55	16.05	2.788
Belgium F	51.33	47.03	2.265
Canada \$	2.04	1.92	2.41
Cyprus Cyp	0.757	0.702	10.59
Denmark Kr	9.68	8.93	282.50
Finland Mk	7.71	7.06	7.28
France Fr	8.36	7.71	304.50
Germany DM	2.81	2.50	10.51
Greece Dr	387	362	181.20
Hong Kong \$	12.57	11.27	10.09
India Ru	1.12	0.84	1.86
Israel Shk	5.33	4.88	1.86
Italy Lira	2471	2216	122.87
Japan Yen	162.70	161.70	1.258

Notes for small denomination bank notes from Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as of close of trading yesterday.

GROUPE PARIBAS

Public tender offer of Groupe Paribas for Compagnie Financière Ottomane

Groupe Paribas confirms its public tender offer for all of the shares and founders' shares in Compagnie Financière Ottomane (CFO), following completion of the sale by CFO of its 100% stake in Osmanli Bankasi to the Turkish group, Garanti Bankasi.

The tender offer will be carried out through a guaranteed price procedure, starting on 8 July 1996 and ending on 2 August 1996 inclusive. The price offered will be FRF 350 per ordinary share, FRF 402,660 per founder's share, and FRF 40,266 per 10th of a founder's share.

A prospectus to which an acceptance form will be attached, as well as a copy of a fairness opinion, will be available to all shareholders.

The goal of this public tender offer is to give holders of CFO shares and founders' shares the possibility of receiving the equivalent of the company's liquidities. It is the natural conclusion to several years' effort by Compagnie Financière Ottomane and Groupe Paribas to maximize the CFO's shareholders value.

Prior to the offer, Groupe Paribas holds 49.9% of CFO. Ordinary shares in CFO are listed on the Luxembourg, London and Paris stock exchanges.

COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE OTTOMANE

Compagnie Financière Ottomane announces that the purchase of its affiliate Osmanli Bankasi by the Turkish group Garanti Bankasi, agreed on 1st April 1996 for a price of \$ 245 million, has been completed on 25th June 1996. No adjustment was made to the price after due diligence by the purchaser.

Following the sale, the value of Compagnie Financière Ottomane, on a liquidation basis, is estimated to be FRF 1,940 million as at 31st of May.

New law fuels talk of Mirror Group selling The People

By Eric Reguly and Alexandra Freen

THE final reading of the Broadcasting Bill in the Commons next week has prompted speculation that the Mirror Group will shed The People to cut the company's circulation so it can buy an ITV company.

The Bill will bar newspaper groups with more than 20 per cent of national circulation from taking control of a terrestrial television company. According to government figures, Mirror Group, whose titles include the Daily Mirror and the Sunday Mirror, has about 23 per cent of the national newspaper market.

Selling The People, a Sunday paper with circulation of just over two million, would cut Mirror Group's market share to about 20 per cent.

Mirror Group owns Live TV, the loss-making cable entertainment channel, and 20 per cent of Scottish Television and has made no secret of its desire to control a profitable terrestrial television company. It has been highly critical of restrictions placed on it by the Broadcasting Bill, due to be passed this summer.

Liberty Publishing, the company formed by the Fayed family, owners of Harrods, to diversify into print and electronic media, is one potential buyer of The People. Liberty is reviving Punch magazine, has bought the ailing Viva radio station in London and has tried to buy The Observer from Guardian Media Group. Liberty was not available for comment. Mirror Group said Liberty had made no approach. There has also been speculation that a new owner of The People might buy the Daily Star from United News & Media to form a seven-day operation.

Charles Wilson, Mirror Group deputy managing director, said: "There is absolutely no intention in our minds at the moment to sell anything."

PRODUCTIVITY

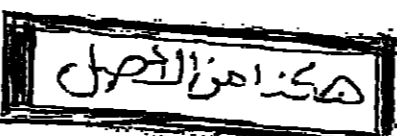
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□ Unravelling the mess at Wickes □ Carlsberg-Tetley deal still some way off □ National Express hits the buffers

Fat cat that got the cream

□ WHO is the highest paid chairman in non-food retailing? The answer is not the head of one of the huge high street multiples but Henry Sweetbaum at Wickes, the DIY chain. Or at least it was until Wednesday night.

Mr Sweetbaum's departure, coinciding almost to the minute with a better-publicised exit at Wembley, came once his position had been made untenable by news that large chunks of Wickes' profits were illusory. Mr Sweetbaum took home £1.2 million last year, although his actual salary was a more modest £296,000.

The difference came from benefits and, to the tune of £890,000, from bonuses and an incentive scheme. Some of those payments, quite clearly, must relate to profits that did not actually exist or the share price performance as influenced by such profits.

The profits overstatement came from taking onto the books rebates or other incentives from suppliers too early. Just how this happened, no one can say. It has no effect on the company's cash or viability at the trading level, and there is no evidence Mr Sweetbaum knew of it. What it does is bring forward some of next year's profits into this year.

Unclear, at this stage, is how much of earlier years' profits

were affected in the same way — and how these same illusory profits were then reflected in Mr Sweetbaum's pay and that of the rest of the board. A hit squad from Price Waterhouse went into Wickes yesterday, and some clue should be available next week.

Mr Sweetbaum may owe his former employer some money. How easy the amount would be to assess, whether he could be persuaded to repay it, and whether it would be worth while pursuing is a matter for another day. One difficulty is that while the bonus element is clearly related to profits and can presumably be recalculated, the incentive scheme is linked to the share price.

But wait. Mr Sweetbaum is reserving his right to compensation for his departure. A sum of £1.25 million, it is whispered, might be due. This would have to be based on last year's pay, and it therefore follows as night follows day that it would be based on some of those profits that were not really there.

This looks like a defining moment in the whole remuneration debate. It is quite unaccept-

able that Mr Sweetbaum should receive a penny out of shareholders' funds until it is clear exactly how much he is entitled to. The finance director of Wickes, Stuart Stradling, who initially blew the whistle, has indicated, honourably, that he will resign once the whole mess is cleared up, and without compensation.

The remaining directors should refuse Mr Sweetbaum, who was chairman and chief executive, note, a penny until Price Waterhouse can say unequivocally how much he is owed or whether he owes the company. Then the negotiating should start in earnest.

Probably one for the silly season

□ THE summer silly season is almost upon us, and the financial pages' equivalent of the Loch Ness monster or corn circles, spotting the deal that will settle the fate of the Allied Domecq-Carlsberg joint brewing venture, is abroad again. When the beast was last loose, the focus of the convoluted plot



was Bass's attempts to ensure a purchase cleared the regulatory authorities. The fear was that Bass might be blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission as the purchase of Carlsberg-Tetley would leave the company with around 40 per cent of the total UK beer market.

Such worries now appear to have been exaggerated. The regulatory authorities look willing to accept the deal with a minimal amount of tweaking. Bass has offered to sell a couple of hundred pubs from its tied estate, mainly in some areas in the Midlands and the North, where it would have a virtual monopoly after the purchase. This is hardly onerous and would barely affect profits.

Bass's real problems lie with Carlsberg, the final member of the less than cosy trio. While Allied Domecq has been only too keen to sell its stake, its Danish partner remains reluctant. The company is heavily reliant on sales in the UK and would be loath to lose the link with tied pubs that the Carlsberg-Tetley venture was set up to provide.

Carlsberg would also feel aggrieved if it were forced out of the venture because under the original terms of the deal the company bore a large part of the investment in return for guarantees that its beers would be part sold to a tied market. The deal was structured this way because Allied was then committed to brewing.

There are a number of solutions. Carlsberg could take a 10 to 15 per cent stake in Bass, or simply in Bass's brewing operations, which would provide some kind of protection. Equally, the Danish brewer could negotiate a long-term licensing agreement, of the kind that Heineken currently holds with Whitbread, to ensure it receives the necessary guarantees. But none of these

solutions can be regarded as straightforward. The Carlsberg-Tetley story still has another few episodes to run.

Derailment on the Midland Line

□ THERE were some angry commuters struggling to work in the capital yesterday, but few were quite as angry as the executives who run one of the most lucrative railways out of it. National Express was accusing the Department of Trade and Industry both of stitching the company up and of not warning them about it first.

Given the abrupt and unnecessary share price plunge, a warning beforehand might have placed unbearable temptation in the way of National Express directors to phone their stockbrokers. As to whether the DTI acted unfairly, the company was convinced it was edging towards a cosy little deal before yesterday's derailment, but that was not the case. That's business.

The financial damage to National Express of withdrawing

from a few coach routes, as required by the DTI, is minimal. The company says other operators may not come in to plug the gap, as the DTI expects, so requiring the grannies and students who rely on its coaches to make a more expensive journey by rail — all paying their fares to National Express.

This is unlikely. A profitable route like that is going to attract takers. More to the point is the convenience to passengers in having the sort of regional rail and coach monopolies that are inevitably emerging out of rail privatisation, because of the scope for integrating timetables and fare structures. Such monopolies will inevitably require tough regulation, but this is a better option than tying their hands at the start and then allowing the free market to rule.

Butte-y contest

□ STRANGE creature, Butte Mining. Known to insiders as "plucky little Butte", it ceased mining for anything years ago and is now an option money play on the vagaries of courts and lawyers. The trick for investors is to buy on the defeats and sell out as anticipation of a victory rises. The next twist looks like a reverse takeover, to allow the company some proper earnings to fund the court battles.

BPB aims to recover lost margins

By CARL MORTISHED

BPB, the plasterboard manufacturer, is expecting a recovery in margins after a year in which rising waste paper prices and the bad weather kept the lid on profits growth.

Underlying profits at the building materials group were flat at £168 million, in spite of a 7.5 per cent rise in turnover to £1.43 billion as the company attempted to recover lost margin with price rises.

Jean-Pierre Cuny, BPB's chief executive, said that he hoped to be able to introduce another price rise in the autumn. "If volumes hold we are

going to restore margins," he said. BPB introduced a plasterboard price increase earlier than usual in an effort to claw back some of the margin lost because of the escalating price of waste paper, a raw material that is used in plasterboard.

However, lack of growth in volumes owing to the harsh winter, which delayed construction starts, led to price erosion.

Overall, plasterboard prices rose by between 2 and 3 per cent during the year with no improvement in the difficult German market, and the return on sales from building products declined from 12.9 per cent to 12.1 per cent.

Mr Cuny said that current volumes were up about 5 per cent on the previous year, although the outlook was uncertain. But he added that higher plasterboard demand in developing markets would supplement the recovery in housing activity in BPB's main markets. BPB is increasing the dividend by 8 per cent — to 9.7p — for the year, in spite of a 1.5p fall in earnings per share, to 20.5p.



Cuny: early price rise likely

Tempus, page 28

Robert Fleming falls £40m

By ROBERT MILLER

ROBERT FLEMING, one of the City's largest private merchant banks, suffered a near-£40 million fall in annual profits to £133.5 million.

John Manser, group chief executive, said the drop was principally because of a £30 million decline in the contribution from Jardine Fleming and a £10 million exceptional item connected with the closure of the direct sales force at Save & Prosper, the group's retail unit trust arm.

Despite the fall, at least one of Fleming's senior executives earned in excess of £1 million in the year to March 31. The most highly rewarded are understood to include Bill Harrison, the former head of global investment banking who is to join BZW. His role has been divided between Bernard Taylor and Roddy Fleming.

Funds under management at Flemings, which raised its annual dividend to 22p a share against 20p last time, rose 28 per cent to a record £60 billion.

Telekom tie-up hope for Energis

By ERIC REGULY

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM, the monopoly phone company that is to be privatised by the German Government in the autumn, has emerged as a possible partner for Energis, the telecommunications carrier owned by the National Grid.

The Grid has been looking for a strategic partner or equity investor for Energis for some time. Deutsche Telekom, which wants to develop a large telecoms business in Britain, is among the suitors. AT&T, America's largest long-distance phone company, is also thought to be interested. AT&T proposed a partnership with Energis two years ago, but some of the Grid's owners, the 12 regional electricity companies, rejected the offer.

Energis needs a partner or equity investor to reverse its fortunes. Revenues climbed almost ten-fold in the past financial year, to £42 million, but the company reported an operating loss of £73 million.

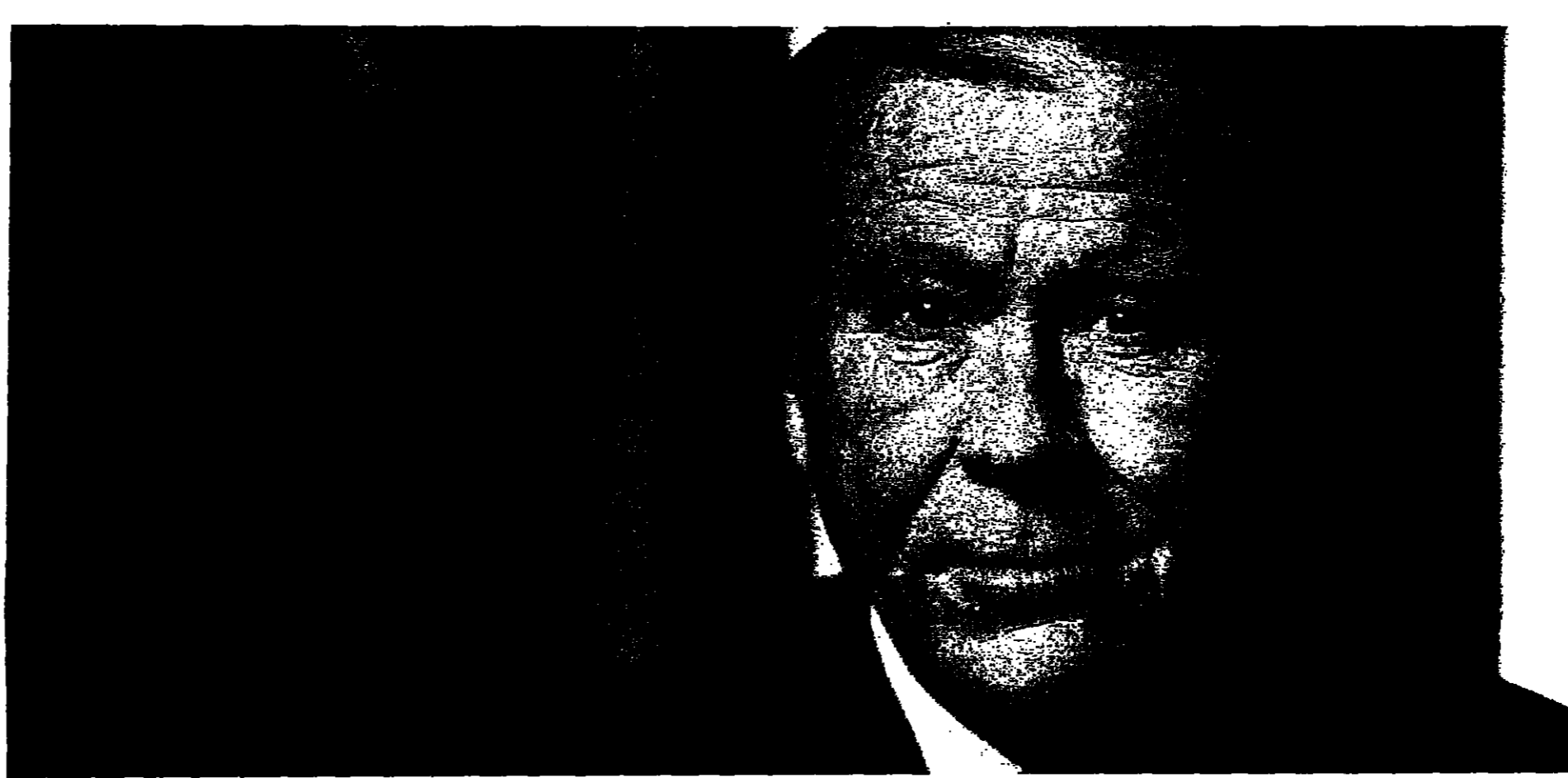
KW 'breached rules'

By ROBERT MILLER

KNIGHT WILLIAMS, the retirement income specialist that is in liquidation, was yesterday accused of widespread breaches of City rules, including the mis-selling of its investments to elderly investors by a leading City law firm.

A report prepared by Dibb Lupton, Broomhead, the law firm acting for free on behalf of investors of the KW investors action group, alleged that KW consultants made promises that could not be fulfilled and

did not explain the nature of the investments they sold. Nor, says the report, did KW consultants ascertain investors' attitudes to risk. Dibb Lupton yesterday called on the Investors Compensation Scheme to declare KW "in default", which would trigger payouts to investors. A Treasury letter to a KW adviser this week, said Angela Knight, Treasury minister, was concerned about the time the case was taking to progress.



"Will a 14-year-old sociopath bring my company to its knees?"

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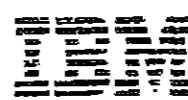
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THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Tarry has no time to wait

EUROTUNNEL was apologising again yesterday, after a Eurostar train taking shareholders, City analysts and journalists to its annual meeting in Paris broke down.

Henry Kissinger, former US Secretary of State, and composer Jean Michel Jarre, were among the frustrated travellers on board the hapless train that "ran out of electricity", coming to an abrupt halt an hour outside the French capital.

Ticket-holders were kept waiting for two hours at the side of the track, until two TGVs were sent to their rescue.

Eventually, the press arrived about three hours late at the Eurotunnel meeting.

Chris Tarry, a passenger and Kleinwort Benson transport analyst, certainly didn't live up to his name. The dedicated Mr Tarry was last seen scrambling over a wire fence in an effort to hail a taxi for the last leg of his nightmare journey.

BRUNO SCHRODER has his eye on a £2,500 statue on display at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. But he tells me the bronze is out of his reach - it has already been sold. The Schroders director picked out the "moderately priced statue of an old man with a dog on his lap while rubbing shoulders with Sir Bob Reid, the chairman of London Electricity, Peter Ellwood, the deputy chief executive at Lloyds TSB, and Earl Limerick, the chairman of De La Rue, at a reception this week to celebrate the 70th birthday of AT Kearney, the management consultant.



"The mainline train now arriving at platform one may be referred to the MMC"

Victory muesli

THE Landmark Hotel was mollycoddling the German football team yesterday. After being served complimentary champagne, courtesy of the hotel's German general manager, the team were served a celebratory breakfast fit for a... er, supermodel. Forty-eight chefs were woken at 4am to prepare a "special" muesli made with yoghurt, hazelnuts, and oatmeal. What's more, the menu was printed on yellow cards.

Ideal blow

JAMES WICKES, chief executive of Ideal Hardware, the computer products distributor, made an unusual apology to his institutional shareholders at a presentation in London yesterday. After indulging in some sumo wrestling at the weekend, the unusually named Johann Konrad Zeno Maria Johann Goess-Saurau, a non-executive director and co-founder of Ideal, couldn't make it. He was at home recovering from concussion.

ASDA is making the most of the ever decreasing Yorkshire water. The supermarket will soon be selling bottles of the precious commodity from Yorkshire Water's rival Pennine Spring in Huddersfield. Priced at 38p for a two-litre bottle, the label will carry the warning: "While stocks last".

MORAG PRESTON



Quasimodo celebrates being crowned 'king of fools' in a scene from The Hunchback of Notre Dame, the Disney studio's latest box-office success

Disney kingdom loses some of its once indelible magic

Walt Disney, the world's biggest entertainment group, opened the door of the Magic Kingdom last weekend to let out another multi-million-dollar box-office hit. The Hunchback of Notre Dame, an animated version of the story by Victor Hugo, grossed more than \$20 million in its first three days. But its success disguises the fissures inside Disney and the question mark hanging over the future of Michael Ovitz, the chief executive.

What worries observers most is the apparently widening rift between the company's two most powerful moguls: Michael Eisner, the chairman, and his friend (some say former friend), Ovitz. The clouds have gathered above the chief executive with remarkable speed since his surprise appointment barely nine months ago. He has, say insiders, angered colleagues, made enemies of senior executives and failed to turn around ABC, Disney's expensive television acquisition. For his part, Ovitz has been reported as saying that he "regrets" joining Disney. How long, ask the gossips, before Ovitz is out?

This is an unexpected turn of affairs for Ovitz, who as head of the CAA talent agency was dubbed the most powerful man in Hollywood. It was assumed when he took the job at Disney that he was swapping autonomy to be Eisner's right-hand man, on the understanding that he was also Disney's heir apparent. That succession looks highly questionable now.

A measure of Disney's problems is that its share price has sunk by a humiliating 14 per cent since March. A big reason for this was the sudden collapse in the ratings of ABC, which Disney bought for \$19 million in February. That month it came third of the leading broadcasting networks and

Richard Thomson on a rift running through an exalted Hollywood studio

its profits slipped badly. Ovitz is the man charged with turning this disaster around. But so far he has had little effect on ABC's ratings, although he has alienated several key executives by bringing outsiders into senior positions. Several of the appointments made good sense, but the way that they were carried out - often without giving warning to existing Disney executives whose jobs would be affected - has caused bitterness. This is typical of what some employ-

ees say is Ovitz's autocratic style. He tries to run Disney the way he ran CAA, unaware that in such a big corporation he does not wield the same authority and that treading on the toes of powerful subordinates tends to weaken his own position. For example, Joe Roth, head of the film studio division, is one of the more powerful heads of Disney's several fiefdoms that Ovitz has upset recently. To mollify Roth, his powers were extended to cover TV as well, thus annoying executives in that area.



Michael Eisner, left, with Michael Ovitz at the studios in Burbank

Meanwhile, all is not well with the film division either - yet another area of Ovitz responsibility. Last week Roth announced that Disney would have to cut the films it produced from 40 to 20 a year, giving further evidence that the entertainment giant was having to radically rethink the way it works. The other frequently voiced criticism of Ovitz is that he is a dealmaker with little patience for the bureaucratic style of a big corporation. He has his fingers in too many pies, doing too many things to be effective, say some Disney employees. For example, he is in charge of Disney's overseas operations, which he says he wants to boost from a third of the corporation's revenues to a half. One of his schemes is to open a theme park in China where he has travelled three times since taking up his new job. He is also responsible for Disney's budding interactive games division, its music division and is negotiating to buy a football team to play for Disney in Los Angeles.

If Ovitz does not prove his worth to Disney soon, his reign at the company may be short lived. His appointment would then look like a serious embarrassment for Eisner, who passed over Jeffrey Katzenberg for the top job even though Katzenberg had masterminded much of the company's current success, particularly on the film and animation side. A disgruntled Katzenberg left to join Steven Spielberg and David Geffen to set up the new DreamWorks studio. He is also suing Disney for \$250 million.

If it happens, Ovitz's departure would again leave open the question of succession to Eisner, whose health has been an issue since he needed heart surgery two years ago. It would also be a precipitous fall for Ovitz, whose power once made Hollywood's film moguls tremble.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Bus transport needs better standards, less regulation

From the Director Public Affairs, CPT Sir, No, for heaven's sake, not another level of bureaucracy. Please, not yet another industry regulator (Pennington, June 19).

Anyhow, why does the bus industry need a regulator? If he is to control fares and service frequencies, then you are proposing re-regulation root and branch.

And why the rail regulator? Because so many rail franchises are being awarded to bus groups? Buses and trains are not the same, you know.

and we already have plenty of regulators: the Department of Transport; Vehicle Inspectorate; the police; MMC-OFT; and most important, the Traffic Commissioners.

To ensure high standards and effective enforcement, two main things need to be done: streamline MMC-OFT (currently far too long-winded and long drawn-out) and reinforce the powers and responsibilities for the Traffic Commissioners and ensure that they are adequately resourced and funded. By the way, the fall in

passenger numbers has not accelerated. In fact, we have managed a modest turnaround. Nationally, we achieved a 1 per cent increase in passenger journeys last year.

Enforcement of standards, improved standards - yes. Regulator - no. Yours faithfully, DAVID WATSON, Director Public Affairs, Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, Sardinia House, 52 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A.

British Gas prepared for MMC

From the Deputy Chairman, British Gas Sir, We were interested to read in your article ("TransCo controls delayed", June 26) that "Ms Spottiswoode's apparent optimism (that an MMC reference could be avoided) could be borne of a... belief that British Gas is afraid of the MMC tabling more severe suggestions". If an MMC inquiry is necessary, then we are wholly confident in the case we would submit to that inquiry.

We were, however, interested to read that "Ofgas yesterday said that the announcement would be made late next month as its economists need extra time to consider the British Gas response". Ofgas's delay might be reviewed in the context of its latest reason (Utility Week, June 21) for not revealing for scrutiny the consultants' reports on which its proposals were based: "Ofgas says it is not making the information available because the gas giant would delay matters with line-by-line rebuttals". Ofgas's delay clearly creates time to check these reports and our request to review them still stands. Yours faithfully, PHILIP C ROGERSON, Deputy Chairman, British Gas, The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street, WC2.

Mystical coincidence

From Bruce Jackson Sir, Kenneth Clarke (Business, June 13) is shown smoking his cigar, the headline being "Clarke upbeat over economic prospects". In the books section of the same issue, Carl Jung is also shown smoking a cigar with the caption "Carl Jung: mystical voyager". Is one to draw any conclusion from this juxtaposition? Yours faithfully, BRUCE JACKSON, 23 Spring Meadows, Great Shefford, Hungerford, Berkshire.

Body Shop position is disappointment

From Anne Simpson Sir, The Body Shop doth protest too much. Pirc does not "accuse". Rather we observe in our report to shareholders that the company does not comply with the Cadbury and Greenbury codes of best prac-

tice. For a business seeking to set standards of excellence this is a disappointment.

We consider the company should come into line with best practice on corporate governance. Stuart Rose, the managing director, advises Pirc to check our facts. The facts are not in dispute. Cadbury states that three non-executive directors are the minimum acceptable

to provide adequate checks and balance on the board. Body Shop has two.

Greenbury states clearly that executives should not sit on the remuneration committee. At Body Shop the chairman and the chief executive (the Roddicks) sit on the committee which establishes executive pay. The Body Shop's excuse for not complying is their (now

dropped) plan for taking the company private. However, the Cadbury code predates these discussions by several years (the Cadbury report being published in December 1992).

The Body Shop also points to its use of "advisers" to recommend pay for the executives. Advice is always useful, but this does not undermine Greenbury's point. Remuneration committees cannot be viewed as independent if executives are members. Body Shop's defence concludes with the comment "the number of non-executives has not historically been shown to guarantee the best interests of shareholders". I wonder where the evidence lies for this claim? If Body Shop really believes this, why is the company planning to recruit a third non-executive? What value does it place on the current two? I look forward to hearing more. Yours faithfully, ANNE SIMPSON, Joint Managing Director, Pirc, Crusader House, 145-157 St John Street, ECI.

Low levels of interest rates are creating a new impoverished class

From Mr Stanley Lerner Sir, When interest rates were a punitive 17 per cent in the early 1990s businessmen would have gone down on their knees for more modest levels, say, 10 per cent.

The Government has, over the past few years, reduced the rate to nearly half of that rate, and yet the "feel-good" factor is still not with the majority of the people. What will happen if the rate is reduced to zero, and there is still no major recovery?

The constant reductions in interest rates are now creating a new class of impoverished people, namely those who were thrifty and saved so as

not to be a burden on the state; they have seen their income plummet, their only hope being either to gamble on the stock market or win the lottery. Is it really the intention of the Government to create a

nation of gamblers and speculators? Yours faithfully, STANLEY LERNER, 37 Hove Park Way, Hove, East Sussex.

SFA tribunal 'has yet to hear' Barings case

From Mr Ronald A. Baker Sir, It has been reported in your newspaper (June 27) and others that I have been banned for three years from working in the City by the Securities and Futures Authority. This is not correct. The SFA has preferred charges against me and has

suggested an SFA registration ban if those charges are found valid. I am currently contesting the charges and the SFA tribunal has yet to hear the case. Yours faithfully, RONALD A. BAKER, 66 Chancery Street, SW6.

Old-fashioned bank counts on new money

Jon Ashworth finds wealthy nerds are edging out the aristocrats at Coutts

Coutts & Co, banker to the Queen, bastion of frock-coated discretion, is embarking on a frightfully modern strategy. In a move that will set jewel-studded fingers trembling with horror, Coutts has decided to put the squeeze on its run-of-the-mill clients - those with only the odd thousand to spare - and focus on those with the occasional million. The wealthiest few are to be invited to combine all their services - tax advice, stockbroking, fund management - under one roof. Lack of ancestral home is no obstacle.

full details of each cheque. Now, ever so subtly, Coutts is concentrating its resources on the money that counts. Herschel Post, chief executive of Coutts & Co, insists that those customers who only require a cheque book and overdraft will be welcome to stay. But it is the big account holders who are likely to attract attention. A spokesman says: "The idea is to offer a full range of financial services in one place."

Banking competitors are more pointed. "This sounds like the 20-80 principle," says one: "20 per cent of clients are 'fat cats'; 80 per cent they want 'out', but are too gentlemanly to say so. There's an element of asking the rich to point the finger at the poor."

Most high street banks are experimenting with electronic techniques, spanning personal computers, telephones and the Internet. NatWest is conducting trials in interactive TV banking. Coutts says it is alert to such trends, but adds: "Some still want old-fashioned attention to duty."

Coutts has attempted to shake up its image before. In 1991, it wrote to clients: "We are giving great attention to reducing still further the number of customers looked after by each manager and manager and manager."

Two years ago, David Went, chief executive of Coutts Group, which embraces Coutts's worldwide operations, announced plans to take Coutts "upmarket" and make it "a proper private bank". Mr Went spoke of the need to focus on managing assets for wealthy individuals, as opposed to the more basic demands of retail banking. By the turn of the century, he speculated, customers might well require a minimum of £500,000 to qualify for Coutts's services.

One only hopes that Coutts has updated its books before summoning clients for that glass of dry sherry. A few years ago, the bank forwarded tax forms to a client, with the postscript: "I shall be grateful if you will kindly let me know the date of Sebastian's birth, since it is quite likely the inspector will want to know this." The client replied that there was unlikely to be a problem as Sebastian was a basset-hound.

Today's millionaire is increasingly likely to be an anorak-clad computer nerd or champagne-swilling pop star, and Coutts, in common with its banking rivals, can ill-afford to be choosy. Its traditionally aristocratic clientele is preoccupied with events in Lime Street and elsewhere. Even the Queen, the most famous of Coutts customers, has been reduced to coping with income tax, and other indignities.

Coutts may no longer write out its customer accounts in quill pen - the practice was abandoned more than 30 years ago - but vestiges of a bygone age remain. Staff continue to wear frock coats, and golden carp cruise the ornamental pond in the foyer of the bank's headquarters. Clients are treated to "narrative statements", providing

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شركة التعمير

Shares lose previous day's gains

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Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, and DISTRIBUTORS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, and INVESTMENT TRUSTS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTH CARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, and MEDIA.

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Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TEXTILES & APPAREL, and TRANSPORT.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, and INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 10%.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET and various other market data.

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THEATRE 1

Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* wears its years lightly in a fine new West End staging



THEATRE 2

... while, at the Barbican, Euripides wears his millennia well in a strong RSC staging



MUSIC 1

The Spitalfields Festival presents intriguing new works by Judith Weir and Anthony Payne



MUSIC 2

The pianist Murray Perahia is in gloriously fluent form for his wide-ranging London recital

THEATRE: The stars have aged, but Neil Simon's elderly comedy is still fresh; plus a bleak Greek

LONDON CONCERTS

Men behave badly well

One of his country's foremost critics has weirdly opined that if Neil Simon were to overcome his inhibitions and slosh kneedeep in the American middle-class tragedy, he might well go to the seafloor beneath that oiled walnut surface. Well, there isn't much sloshing or tragedy or Atlantic floor evident in *The Odd Couple*, and that is fine by me. Even the woman behind me who spent the evening laughing like a parakeet on LSD — these mixed metaphors and similes are catching — was not enough of a nuisance to prevent me enjoying a play that wears its 30 years lightly.

The Odd Couple Haymarket

Oiled walnut surface does not seem quite fair either. There is basically one idea in *The Odd Couple*, but it is solid enough to sustain a couple of diverting hours. A play you expect to be a jolly buddy-comedy rapidly turns into a parody of heterosexual married strife, with one buddy taking the role of the messy, sullen husband and the other that of the tidy, nagging wife. If you think of Walter Matthau behaving slobbily and Jack Lemmon priggishly, as they did in the film version, you will get the picture.

Here Jack Klugman is Oscar, whose wife has divorced him because he is chaotic and selfish, and Tony Randall is Felix, whose wife proposes to divorce him because he is neurotically fussy and interfering. That two such different men should be friends at all seems unlikely, and that Oscar should give house-room to Felix is even more so; but Simon does what he can to lessen our disbelief. Both belong to the same poker school, and the camaraderie of the game dictates that the one gives succour to the other, especially as the other parades his suicidal tendencies as flamboyantly as black feathers at a funeral.

Most of the comedy comes after Felix has rid the apartment of its flung-about laundry and thrown-around papers, and done his stuff with the vacuum cleaner and air-freshener. But it is what follows that makes Oscar's nerves, already frayed, definitively snap.

A supper party for the pretty English sisters living next door reduces Felix, who has volunteered to cook, to a flouncing, self-pitying, guilt-mongering male harrier. Oscar's erotic plans for Gwendolyn and Cecily, as Simon calls

the guests in clear tribute to Wilde, fall flat; but not before the incongruities of the situation have provoked plenty of laughter even among the non-parakeets in the audience.

Fiona Hendley and Sarah Payne twitter away Kensington-style, and Rodney Bewes, Henry McGee and others drop one-liners over the card-table in their best Manhattan mode. Both Randall and Klugman — who actually replaced Matthau as Oscar in the original Broadway production and, with Randall, was in *The Odd Couple* TV series — are too old for their roles, and Klugman has problems with his vocal cords that sometimes make him less comprehensible than he might be; but there is a lot right with their interpretations.

Klugman catches the deliberate boorishness of one kind of impossible husband, and Randall the obsessive brightness of a more hands-on and, he suggests, more manipulative example of the species. Either way, one suspects that the real heroes of the piece are two characters we never meet: the wives who had the good sense to throw them out.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



"A play you expect to be a jolly buddy-comedy rapidly turns into a parody of heterosexual married strife": Jack Klugman as Oscar the slob and Tony Randall as the prickly Felix in *The Odd Couple*

Portrait reveals depth of Weir

TWO main strands of the programming at this year's Spitalfields Festival, Baroque and contemporary music, came together in a pair of the closing concerts in Hawksmoor's cavernous Christ Church in Commercial Street.

The three composers who direct the festival — Michael Berkeley, Anthony Payne and Judith Weir — have maintained the spirit of innovation they established last year. It was Weir's turn to present her "Composer's Portrait", a concert in which she placed her own music and possible influences on it side by side.

The soprano Jane Manning caught the languorous essence of Ravel's *Chansons Madécasses*, and Celia Craig and Dominic Sanders found the elegiac tone of Poulenc's last work, the *Sonata for Oboe and Piano*. Six members of the ensemble Jane's Minstrels gave a flowing performance of Janáček's warm, wistful *Mládí*.

There were echoes of Copland, I thought, in the otherwise highly individual *Horse d'oeuvres*. Weir's setting of three horse poems of which the last was being premiered here. Very different sounds were evoked in *Musicians Wrestle Everywhere*, an affect-

Spitalfields Festival Christ Church, E1

tionate musical picture of Weir's London neighbourhood, receiving its first London performance. Weir's arrangement of Waltraute's Narration from *Götterdämmerung* worked less well in its first performance: the wind ensemble muddied Wagner's textures, and Manning was not an exciting story-teller.

An Anthony Payne premiere was a highlight of Wednesday's concert by Trinity College Choir, Cambridge, under Richard Marlow. His setting of Tennyson's *Break, break, break* builds on the English part-song tradition: rich textures are punctuated by little vocal fanfares, and swelling lines echo the poetry.

Not the best Cambridge choir, Trinity's is at least more liberated than some. Women's voices give it full-bodied sound. In a programme that also included Monteverdi, Gibbons, Sweelinck and J.S. Bach, Johann Michael Bach's antiphonal chorale-motet *Halt, was du hast* was most striking.

JOHN ALLISON

Grand tour guide

PLAYING Baroque keyboard music on a concert grand is the latest in performer chic, as Mikhail Pletnev, Evgeny Kissin and Joanna MacGregor are, in their different ways, all eager to demonstrate. Great pianists like Sviatoslav Richter have, of course, been there long before; and it was Richter who sprang to mind in the programming of Murray Perahia's long-awaited Festival Hall recital.

Scarlati, Bach and Handel dominated the first half; Schumann and Mendelssohn the second. Odious comparison will not be made. Suffice it to say that Perahia was in gloriously fluent form: fluent at times, perhaps, to the point of overdrive, where admiration was confirmed rather than understanding and perceptions challenged.

His Scarlati is an unalloyed delight. In Sonatas K491, K247 and K212, he found three distinctive masks of the composer: serene; conversationalist; virtuoso. Percussive

Murray Perahia Festival Hall

brilliance rang out without any coarsening of timbre.

In Bach's English Suite No 4, Perahia's minutely considered and beautifully realised details of weight and measure came across with almost too much facility. Handel, though, was fresh-minded. In the Chaconne in G and the Suite No 5 in E, Perahia thrillingly fused the intricately wrought artifice of the Baroque with the extrovert flair of the man of the theatre.

Introvert and extrovert alternated with infinite variety in Schumann's *Kreisleriana*. A beguiling, if somewhat breathless, performance of Mendelssohn's *Andante* and *Rondo capriccioso* led to an equally fleet-footed pair of Schubert Impromptus, given as mercurial encores.

HILARY FINCH

No excess baggage for brothers in arms

This late play by Euripides was first produced when Athens was besieged and the long war against Sparta had moved irreversibly in favour of the besiegers. Whether Euripides hoped to persuade his fellow

citizens to sue for peace is impossible to tell, but in his version of the feud between the sons of Oedipus he creates a darkly vivid picture of the consequences of fratricidal war. "Mounds of dead," says the First Messenger. "Pools of

blood," adds the Second. The brothers slay each other, their mother stabs herself; sister and sundry cousins are not long for this world. The end is as bleak as anything Euripides wrote because even the closing lines, thought to be

spurious, offer no hope for a better future, and those that precede them point to further disasters ahead. Possibly the Phoenician women, trapped inside the walls of Thebes, will escape being raped by conquering Argives but that is the best he will offer.

Katie Mitchell's strong and absorbing production from last year's Stratford is more audience-friendly in the basin-like Pit than on the level floor of the Other Place. Her setting is in her favourite colour — black — with candles glimmering in front of three Cycladic statues. Polyneices, the son who starts off with a just grievance, wears armour and a sword, but nobody else comes encumbered with any possessions at all. Everything is pared down, and the more impressive for that, though

The Phoenician Women Barbican Pit

the opposite effect occurs when an account of the calamities has to be told to blind Oedipus, to bring him up to date with events. A touch of the knife could slice off a few lines here, unless Mitchell can devise a way to stop us becoming aware that our seats feel hard.

The Chorus utter their Phoenician ululations in unison but are otherwise presented as individuals, even to the point of being allotted names in the programme. Mitchell generally groups them in small clusters towards the rear but then breaks up the pattern, spreading them across the stage in the most realistic attitudes of alertness and concern.

Lorraine Ashbourne's anguished Jocasta, disturbingly scarred up and down both arms, welcomes Dermot

Kerrigan's Polyneices with so keen a passion, such a multitude of kisses, that the memory of this comforting love persists through the play as the desired alternative to all the harsh edicts and hatreds elsewhere expressed. Lucy Whybrow movingly shows Antigone's forced growth from innocence to grim-faced resolve and independence.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Bleak outlook: the unfortunate women of Thebes face grim predictions for their future in Katie Mitchell's spare production of Euripides's *The Phoenician Women*

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The key to Arhus

WHILE the Nordic Music Season makes its discreet progress through mainland Britain, Orkney has witnessed something little short of an invasion. Hilary Finch writes. The Danish Navy arrived in Kirkwall harbour on an exercise just as the St Magnus Festival was beginning; a maverick Danish trombonist blasted his way into the cathedral; the Arhus Sinfonieta settled itself into the little grey town of the Norwegian earls; and an Icelandic rock band, Gammar, took over the festival club.

The trombonist brought with him an organist; together Neils-Ole Johanson and Ulrich Sprang-Hanssen form Embedsmændsduoen, or the Civil Service Duo, and, while their appearance and manner certainly lives up to that promise, their music-making, thank goodness, does not. They regaled a sedate midday audience with pieces from all five Nordic countries. The most impressive was Icelandic Askell Masson's *Kadanza for solo trombone*, which exploited everything the instrument could possibly do, and more, in an audacious piece whose basis in Gregorian chant gave it a boldly expressive coherence. I also enjoyed another chant-based work, Norwegian Egil Hovland's complex and eclectic *Cantus V* for trombone and organ.

ST MAGNUS FESTIVAL

Meanwhile, as the midnight sun rose from the day's unremitting gloom, the lights in St Magnus's long sandstone nave were dimmed for a rare performance of Peter Maxwell Davies's *Tenebrae super Gesualdo*, the four meditations for ensemble, originally written for the Fires of London, and now played graphically by members of the Arhus Sinfonieta, complete with the original, alternating choral fragments of Gesualdo's *O vos omnes*. Even the composer had never heard a complete performance before — and was clearly impressed by the richly coloured voices of Orkney's Mayfield Singers, echoing from the west end of the nave.

The Sinfonieta, conducted by Soren Hansen, also brought with it Karl Aage Rasmussen's violin concerto, *Sinking through the Dream Mirror*, a true ensemble work, spangled with some beguiling formal and instrumental ideas, but overextended; and the Finnish composer Kajja Saariaho's *Lichtbogen* for chamber orchestra and electronics, an eloquent aural transcription of her experience of the Northern Lights, and now something of a classic in contemporary Nordic writing.

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THE TIMES POP ARTS

POP 1

In memoriam: Patti Smith draws on her bereavement for an impressive new album

POP 2

... while Lyle Lovett serves up country music with a twist of bittern on The Road to Ensenada

Five of the best

MICHAEL BRECKER Tales from the Hudson (Impulse! IMP 1912) AS Hamlet was once famously criticised for being full of quotations...

HANK MOBLEY Hank Mobley and His All Stars (Blue Note CDP 7243 8 37668 2) IF a jazz label is most fairly judged by its strength in depth...

Darker shade of pale

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair welcomes the return - in fine form - of a 1970s survivor

PATTI SMITH Gone Again (Arista 74321 38474) EMERGING from a 15-year retirement (broken only by the low-key release of the Dream of Life album in 1988), Patti Smith is in a reflective but typically forthright mood on Gone Again...



Mortal coils: Patti Smith's recent bereavements have given her work an elegiac edge

America, was a highly unusual fusion of folk, jazz, acoustic rock and world-music influences. And if they have narrowed the focus on the follow-up, Crash, it has hardly turned them into a corporate rock machine...

and one which looks, on the face of it, ripe for pretentious excess. But the duo's debut album is a feast of intelligent pop tunes given a subtle, left-field twist...

with what is, by its standards, an unusually straightforward album. He takes affectionate fun at his Texan roots on the western swing of That's Right (You're Not from Texas) and the clip-clopping Murray Kellum song Long Tall Texan...

BOOTH AND THE BAD ANGEL Booth and the Bad Angel (Fontana/Mercury 526 852) BOOTH is Tim Booth, the singer in James, and the Bad Angel is Angelo Badalamenti, composer of the Twin Peaks soundtrack...

DAVE MATTHEWS BAND Crash (RCA/BMG 07863 66904) THE current vogue for tarring all image-free American acts of a certain vintage with the Hootie & the Blowfish brush makes little sense in the case of the Dave Matthews Band...

EQUATION He Loves Me (Blanco Y Negro 0630-14942) ON their breezy debut single, this young band from Devon recall the clean-cut, folk-pop sound of Fairground Attraction but without the twee sentimentality...

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Jagged Little Pill... Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
2 Mosaic Deflection... Ocean Colour Scene (NCA)
3 Recording Drama... The Very Best of Crowded House (Capitol)
4 The Score... Fugees (Columbia)
5 Older... George Michael (Virgin)
6 Falling Into You... Celine Dion (Epic)
7 18 Tilt Die... Bryan Adams (A&M)
8 Ocean Drive... Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
9 Free Press Sweet... Dodgy (A&M)
10 (What's the Story) Morning Glory?... Oasis (Creation)

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A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Merril Hargre

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jenny Kingston's assessment of theatre in London

THEATRE GUIDE

troubled by wiles. National (Columbia), South Bank, SE1 0171-426 2252 Tonight, Tomorrow, 7.30pm; mat tomorrow, 2.30pm (0171-426 2252)

NEW RELEASES

HEAVEN'S PRISONERS (15) Brandon in the boyz with Alec Baldwin as an ex-con who goes strapping up drug runners...

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (A) on release across the country

CINEMA GUIDE

THE JUROR (18): Few genuine trials as Alec Baldwin's Mafia henchman leans on Demi Moore's juror...

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POP 3

All set for Hyde Park: Roger Daltrey prepares for *Quadrophenia*, 23 years on



POP 4

Sunrise in the west: Gorky's Zygotic Myncci are among a clutch of great new Welsh bands

THE ARTS



POP 5

Elvis Costello and the Attractions open their tour with a very laid-back show in Dublin



TOMORROW

From *Hill Street Blues* to Henry James: Daniel Travanti on the road to *The Aspern Papers*

Talking about regeneration

The Who's singer Roger Daltrey tells Paul Sexton about reviving *Quadrophenia* in front of 150,000 people in Hyde Park tomorrow

Late tomorrow afternoon in Hyde Park, the Who and supporting cast — we are politely asked to use the collective "Pete Townshend and Friends" — will remake a moment of rock history. And an expected crowd of 150,000 will ponder if their performance of the band's 1973 album *Quadrophenia* can be anything but a footnote to the career of a rock 'n' roll colossus that will not quite die.

At the MasterCard Masters Of Music Concert for the Prince's Trust, Townshend is reviving his complex musical depiction of Jimmy, the 1960s adolescent struggling for self-awareness in the mod playground of Brighton. The occasion will evoke nostalgia for the early days of the Who themselves, so closely is Jimmy's story interwoven with that of the band itself.

The event marks Townshend's first performance with John Entwistle and Roger Daltrey since the Who's twenty-fifth anniversary tour in 1989. And Daltrey is straining at the leash. "It's still magical music," he says during a break in rehearsals. "That's one thing that never ceases to amaze me about Who music. I love so many bands, but when you hear Who music, it's not like anything else."

Daltrey, who at 52 has the physique of a very fit man 15 years younger, is reveling in celebrating again a piece of Who heritage, even if the band name does not appear on the bill. "Course it's the bloody 'oo," he splutters. "John calls it Ted: Townshend, Entwistle, Daltrey, Pete's got a problem with the Who, and I haven't. I'm very proud of working for 25 years building up the name of one of the world's greatest rock 'n' roll bands."

This and subsequent *Quadrophenia* performances, including six shows at Madison Square Garden next month, afford the opportunity to make up for the Who's abortive

performances of the album in 1974. "We were dealing with technology which wasn't up to our ambitions," says Daltrey. "You had to put all the synthesizer tracks on to a tape machine and play to click tracks. For Keith Moon it was complete hell, because he wasn't that kind of drummer. Plus the piece does need a narrator if you're going to do it on stage." That role will be filled tomorrow by Phil Daniels, the star

‘I love so many bands, but when you hear Who music, it's not like anything else’

of the 1979 film of the piece. The charity that will benefit from the London show provides motivation of its own. "The Prince's Trust is a fantastic charity," says Daltrey. "A young person who wants to be a hairdresser but can't afford to buy his scissors can go to the Prince's Trust and it'll teach him about putting a business plan forward. If he then earns enough, he pays back the trust. The number of people it's helped is unreal."

After seven years, Daltrey is returning to centre stage in the most public way. "I'm just going to enjoy it. It's hard, though. I sang this piece 25 years ago, and some of those top notes are high Cs, full voice. But I've never really cared about notes. I much prefer a bum note and a bead of sweat to something so cool that you're falling asleep."

His vexation that Townshend called time on the Who as a recording entity after 1982's poorly received *It's Hard* is still close to the surface. "It frustrated me to death

that Pete resigned when he did. Who music was probably the first really ballsy rock 'n' roll music with a writer with the courage and the ability to write through his life. For me, the problems of middle-age are far more interesting, and much more difficult, to write about, and I always felt that with Pete writing for the Who, we would have been the ultimate band addressing that part of our lives."

But he adds: "I was very reluctant to do this, it wasn't an easy decision. I would like the Who to go on, but I don't want it to be the same. If you asked me to go and play a Who's greatest-hits tour, like the 1989 tour, I would say no. We've got something better within us."

With the band's demise in the early 1980s, Daltrey developed his acting career and, reluctantly, his solo recording. His image as country squire and salmon-farm owner is now almost as familiar as that of the microphone-swinging, bubble-haired rock figurehead on the newly released video *Listening to You*, from the Who's performance at the 1970 Isle of Wight Festival. "I love living in the country," he says defiantly of his other life. "I don't use it as a dormitory, I live there. I'm very proud of it."

Proud, and grateful. "That's what's kept me sane," he says. "I could have really easily gone off the rails. I was at the Hard Rock in Las Vegas, and on the screen in the bar were all these people I knew when I was 23: Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison, Mama Cass, Jimi Hendrix... and I suddenly realised, these people are no longer alive, and I could have been one of them. Moon as well. I was just very lucky that I managed to get the balance correct. That's all life is, isn't it? Shame you don't understand it when you're 16."

● The video *Listening to You — Live At The Isle of Wight* is released by Warner Music Vision. The newly remixed *Quadrophenia* is released by Polydor



A quick one while they are all together: Roger Daltrey, now 52, has never really reconciled himself to the break-up of the Who — "It frustrated me to death that Pete resigned when he did"

LIVE GIG

His aim still true

IT was a very laid-back Elvis Costello who waltzed onstage at the National Stadium in Dublin and picked up his acoustic guitar, kicking off a two-hour set with an unaccompanied *Just About Glad* from 1994's back-to-basics album, *Brutal Youth*. A few numbers passed before the Attractions came on midway through *Oliver's Army* and, from there on, the flashy keyboard workouts of Steve Nieve and the rock-solid rhythm section of Pete and Bruce Thomas provided the backbone to a performance that was duly satisfying, if not quite exceptional.

Elvis Costello
Dublin

This was partly the fault of the somewhat dour venue and partly because of the distraction caused by the England-Germany football match, which was being screened in the "ringside bar", so it was not surprising Costello found it difficult to get into his stride. Of course by the time he begins his residency at London's Shepherd's Bush on July 5, this won't be an issue.

On this night we were treated to a generous selection of songs from his current album, *All This Useless Beauty*. Particular standouts included the title track, *The Other End of the Telescope*, and *Poor Fractured Atlas*. But it was not until the electric charge of *Pump It Up* that the subdued audience sprang to life. Costello leaped nimbly through his back pages, even transforming a new song, *Distorted Angel*, into a melody of *This Year's Model* and (*Don't Want To Go To*) *Chelsea*. The sublime Alison closed the show, sending the Euro 96 buffs back to their videos well and truly contented.

NICK KELLY

Caitlin Moran sings the praises of a nation under the weirdest of grooves

Today Wales, tomorrow ...

Until recently, parts of the music industry suffered from a disease known as "herding". It would occur whenever a band from "the provinces" (ie, anywhere outside the M25) suddenly rose to prominence. In 1988, for instance, the day after Manchester's Happy Mondays appeared on *Top of the Pops*, having broken into the Top 20, every flight and train seat up to Manchester had been booked up by A&R men. The words of their label bosses were still ringing in their ears: "Smithers, I want a Manchester band and I want one now. The kiddies go wild for them. Do not darken this door until you've got me four working-class lads who've been listening to Sly Stone."

And so Smithers and 50 of his peers trekked to Manchester, hung around clubs and pubs until they had found a band with a Manc accent, and dragged it back to London.

This happens so often it is starting to be seen as "normal" A&R behaviour. The locations change but the routine remains the same. Goldrush fever sets in, whether it be



Say it loud, they're Welsh and proud: Gorky's Zygotic Myncci are an invigorating sum of many influences

around Happy Mondays, Nirvana, Porrishead or Oasis, and suddenly the streets of Seattle, Bristol and Manchester are filled with desperate men trying to find the next cash cow.

This has no logic at all. When the people of Melton Mowbray came up with the pork pie, there wasn't a sudden deluge of bakers from around the country flooding Leicestershire, eagerly await-

ing the next progression in pastry and pig.

Of course, there's always an exception that proves the rule: and in this case the exception is a whole country. Wales has suddenly become a melting pot of assorted mad geniuses: 60ft Dolls, Gorky's Zygotic Myncci, Super Furry Animals, Catatonia and the well-established Manic Street Preachers are all starting to put Wales in

the old Rock'n'Roll Atlas of Britain.

The way a music-influenced kid in Wales consumes music is different from most other kids in Britain. Unless you live in Swansea or Cardiff, your access to music is limited and eclectic. The small, second-hand stores such as Cob in Porthmadog and Hag's in Lampeter have a range that's generally well outside the current mainstream — Krautrock nestles by C&W; Simple Minds' first four albums are always available for £3 each, and strange psychedelic bands from the 1960s clutter every section.

Very little of what's currently in the charts filters through. Therefore, the musical self-education that all music-obsessed kids go through between the ages of 13 and 19 is a radically different one, leading to bands that exist outside the Beatles/Stones/Eloyd/Pistols/Smiths/R.E.M./Nirvana/Oasis blueprint most bands follow so faithfully. These tiny, strange record shops influence bands such as Gorky's Zygotic Myncci, who become a different band for each track on their albums, from gently strummed Syd Barrett stuff to mad zydeco.

Similarly, Super Furry Animals' *Hometown Unicorn*, their shiniest moment to date, wanders through Strawbs, XTC and Teardrop Explodes. Catatonia's skewed view of pop — make it loud, odd and melodic — has been gaining swaths of adoration, and 60ft Dolls seem set to become huge this year with their aggressive, off-kilter punk rock.

In the past few years people's tastes have become ever more eclectic. Artists as weird as Björk, Tricky and the Divine Comedy have become big-selling acts. There's a new hunger for different, radical, out-there pop which conventional rock'n'pop can't satisfy. The message from Wales seems to be: strike out for the uncharted waters — the pickings are richer there.

● Super Furry Animals' album *Fuzzy Logic* is released by Creation. The single *Amber Gambler*, by Gorky's Zygotic Myncci, is on Ankt. The single, *Happy Shopper*, by 60ft Dolls, is released by Indolent on July 6

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EDUCATION ALSO APPEARS ON PAGE 39

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EDUCATION

As thousands await A-level results, Bruce Kemble and John O'Leary offer a list of unfilled degree courses

The Times degree vacancies guide

A levels are all but over and the anxious wait begins for hundreds of thousands of university applicants. This two-page guide should provide many of them with the first good news in the process.

The courses listed here all have places available whatever the public examination results may bring. Using this information intelligently may make the difference between gaining a place on the degree course of your choice and deciding eventually not to go on to higher education.

No matter how confident you are of succeeding in achieving the grades expected of you, when the results are published on August 15, it would be wise to keep this list. The information it contains will provide a head start in the annual scramble for places.

If your envelope reveals that you have not achieved the grades you wanted, you can be first in the queue and on the phone as soon as university and college admissions offices open. But there are other categories of student who need this list, among them the many students who have failed to obtain any conditional offers of university places. These unfortunates can grab one of these vacancies by phoning an admissions office direct to secure a conditional place.

In addition, there are those who now know that they did badly in the examination and are certain they will not get the grades for which they were asked. They may well be wrong — candidates are prone to fear the

worst — but they should keep this list in case the nightmare becomes a reality.

Many thousands of students have not even applied to a university yet. They may have taken an A-level course not intending to see passes as a passport to a degree. But now, with this detailed list, they and others who left school long ago can think again.

At the last count, about a third of all those making degree-level courses were aged over 25 and therefore classified as mature students. Some, a brave adventurous few, were in their eighties. So even if you have never thought of going to university, consider it now. It could be the chance of a lifetime.

Details of these and other empty places in the main subject areas (with a summary of the vacancy situation last year) are published in *Degree Course Vacancies 1996*, edited by Brian Heap and obtainable from PO Box 24, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 9YH (£7.50, including postage).

During the summer, and in the last-minute scramble for places, however, lower offers may be expected, depending on the quality of the applicant, the subject and the number of vacancies that are available.

The Times will publish a comprehensive, daily listing of vacancies when the clearing process begins. The service will start on Monday August 19 and will last throughout the official clearing period.



Awaiting A-level results? Even if you have never thought of going to university, consider it now. It could be the chance of a lifetime

Geology or Environmental Pollution Science or French or German or Spanish, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Pollution Science, Technology & Business Studies, Surveying For Resource Development, Mineral Resource Development, Biotechnology, Applied Sports Science, Sports Psychology, Food Science & Technology and Environmental Geoscience.

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BA/BSc: Joint Honours, Major/Minor

Huddersfield University 01484 422288

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Continued on page 38

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01248 370171
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De Montfort University (School of Applied Arts & Design)
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BA (Hons) in: Politics, History of Art & Design.

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CRICKET: ENGLAND COACH CONVINCES COUNTIES THAT LEADING PERFORMERS NEED BREAK FROM CHAMPIONSHIP TREADMILL

Lloyd secures week's rest for jaded Test players



Lloyd: personal plea

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
THE need to protect and preserve England cricketers within the punishing domestic schedule was at last recognised yesterday...

set, while Graeme Hick of Worcestershire, and Chris Lewis, of Surrey, were absent at New Road and Southend respectively...

Cricket Board, followed the counties' rejection of a proposal by Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors...

Jack is not captaining the side and later in the season, he might be rested completely.
'My reply to any members who are upset by this is that when players are jaded they will not see them at their best...

England's professional cricket circuit is so broad, so all-consuming, that this will be seen by some as a radical and divisive step...

against the premature burn-out of leading players and consequent deterioration of England's international standing.

McGrath consolidates for Yorkshire

WORCESTER (first day of four; Yorkshire won toss; Yorkshire have scored 312 for seven wickets against Worcestershire
IT WAS not just the voluntary absence of Graeme Hick that identified the contrasting championship aspirations of the two counties at New Road yesterday...

discernible shape they may not have a better chance.
Winning the toss here gave them an immediate control over events...



Bevan, linchpin of Yorkshire's batting, loses his off stump to Ellis, a newcomer to the Worcestershire attack

maiden England tour this winter seems highly likely. He did not hurry, nor was there any call for it...

A third half-century followed from Craig White, whose reaction, both arms raised aloft towards the dressing-room, was self-mocking...

Illingworth, who championed his international cause, was not here to see it - apparently, he was queuing for a haircut in Farsley.

Fairbrother hands out familiar punishment to Somerset

TO WATCH Neil Fairbrother and Stephen Titchard in partnership is to appreciate how disparate two century-makers can be. One is short, left-handed and can score his runs ar will through an uncluttered range of shots...

Middlesex pair break Pollock's spell of domination

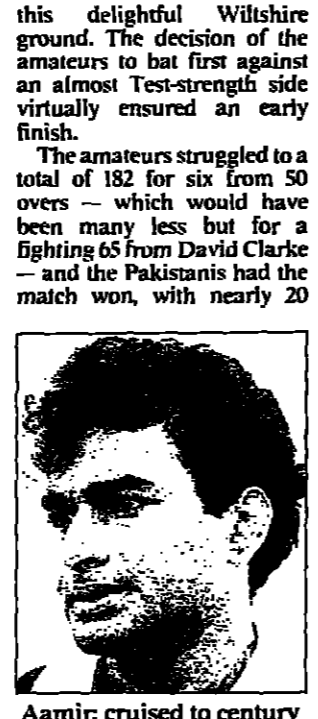
SHAUN POLLOCK, the brilliant young South African all-rounder, has taken everything in his considerable stride since bursting on to the international scene against England last year...

Tenacious Thorpe earns his reward

SOUTHEAST (first day of four; Surrey won toss; Surrey have scored 345 for three wickets
IT WAS a hard day's work for all concerned, but tenacity had its rewards. On a pitch which could be reasonably classified as a slow 'turner'...

Pakistanis make positive start

TROWBRIDGE (England NCA won toss; the Pakistanis beat England NCA by eight wickets
LAST week, while England's cricketers were locked in battle with India at Lord's and the rest of the country was gripped by Euro 96 fever...



Aamir: cruised to century

this delightful Wiltshire ground. The decision of the amateurs to bat first against an almost Test-strength side virtually ensured an early finish.

Hirwani presses firm case for Test recall

FENNER'S (second day of three); The Indians, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 242 runs ahead of British Universities
ONCE the Indians opted to delay the declaration of their first innings by 70 minutes...

the ground this morning. Darren Gough is taking his good news, but it is what he does when he has the ball in his hand today that will interest England.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table containing cricket scoreboards for various matches including Essex v Surrey, Lancashire v Somerset, Yorkshire v Worcestershire, and others. Includes player names, runs, wickets, and match details.

FOOTBALL: VENABLES DESERVES PLAUDITS FOR RESTORING ENGLAND'S PLACE IN WORLD ORDER

Wembley epic stirs memories of Turin

BOBBY ROBSON



on England's disappointment

They tell me that lightning doesn't strike twice but, at Wembley on Wednesday night, no one believed that. It was almost a replica of the World Cup semi-final six years ago in Turin when I was in charge of England. We played as well as the Germans on Wednesday, we were the better side in extra time and Darren Anderton hit the post, just as Chris Waddle had done in Italy.

I was sitting there in the stand thinking "this is it all over again". It was there in the compactness of both teams, the desperate attempts to open each other up in defence. But, just as they were in 1990, the Germans are still one of the best teams in the world and they have made a real art of hanging in there.

The match was a privilege to watch, a real game for the connoisseur. There was so much class and there was sportsmanship, too. Germans picked English players up off the floor at times and vice-versa. Only Möller spoilt it when he rejected Pearce's offer to help him up and he paid for his lack of graciousness with the yellow card that put him out of the final.

Most enthralling of all for me were the personal battles that were going on all over the pitch. I thought Babel was very impressive against Shearer and I loved the tussle between Gascoigne and Freund. For me, Sammer was the man of the match; he hit long and short passes and was always trying to play the ball forward into good positions.

Möller, in spasms, was brilliant, too, but he was up against Ince, who had a marvellous match. The marking and tackling of the German team, in general, was outstanding and they did great work in containing us.

I know I talked before the game about the necessity of taking any half-chances, but I really would not blame Anderton for his miss. It was an inch away, that's all. It made me think about Waddle's shot, how it looked to be going in right until the last moment when it seemed to hit a blade of grass and veer towards the post.

Gascoigne missed by inches, too, of course, with those two late runs in extra time and then there was Southgate. I read a few comments questioning why he had been allowed to take a penalty when

men like McManaman and Ince still had not taken them, but Terry Venables will have asked for volunteers and we should praise Southgate for taking it.

Terry should be praised, too. It is the end of his period in charge and he can be proud of what he has achieved. When I left the job after the 1990 World Cup, we were ranked fourth in the world. I think we slipped down to about 23, but on Wednesday we showed we are right back up there again.

During this tournament, he has got the team playing the football he wanted them to play. He had a vision and I do not think the team could have played any better.

He went out in glory, too. He started with three at the back on Wednesday and that showed he is a thinking coach. There were not many coaches who would have done that. The majority would have started conservatively and then changed in mid-stream.

It is a shame he could not have carried on but he has obviously made up his mind. At least defeat against Germany has made it easier for Glenn Hoddle to take over. If we had won the tournament, he would have been in an unenviable position.

He will take over a team who have won back their prestige and their reputation. Terry never panicked. He got it right and England played their best football for a number of years. It was a pleasure to see it.



Venables consoles Southgate after his penalty miss condemned England to defeat

Germany stagger on approach to final hurdle

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

EVEN Germany's renowned resilience may be tested to its most extreme limits when they play the Czech Republic in the final of Euro 96 at Wembley on Sunday. Injuries and bookings have gradually mounted since their opening match — a 2-0 win against the Czechs 19 days ago — and Germany's initial 22-strong squad could be reduced to only 11 fit outfield players.

Berti Vogts, the coach, is so concerned that he has already asked Oliver Reck and Oliver Kahn, the reserve goalkeepers, in which positions they would prefer to play if called on. It began as no more than a jovial, half-hearted inquiry but, by yesterday morning, it had become serious.

"We have suffered some heavy losses and the rules do not allow us to nominate any replacements," Vogts said. "We have a great medical team, we have good doctors, and we put our faith in them. Anything is possible, we must remain optimistic."

Germany lost Jürgen Kohler, the defender, with knee ligament damage, and Mario Basler, the midfielder, with ankle problems, early in the tournament. On returning home, they were soon joined by Fredi Bobic, the striker, who fractured a shoulder.

Jürgen Klinsmann has a torn calf muscle and Thomas Helmer, Steffen Freund and Christian Ziege sustained injuries in the victory over England on Wednesday. Andy Möller and Stefan Reuter received their second cautions of the tournament in that game and will be serving suspensions on Sunday. Klinsmann, who did not play against England, is at least more hopeful of facing the Czech Republic. "The muscle is improving day by day and I feel I have a chance of playing," he said. "The doctor is pleased with the way it is responding to the treatment."

Mehmet Scholl, Klinsmann's team-mate at Bayern Munich, still believes Germany have the willpower and physical presence to win the championship. "We know the Czechs will be strong, they must be to have got this far," he said. "The last game, the final, is always special and I'm sure we can overcome all our problems."

Thomas Strunz, another Bayern player, spent yesterday relaxing at Wimbledon. Boris Becker provided him with tickets after visiting the team hotel to join in the German celebrations on Wednesday.

Strunz had words of consolation for England. "It was all very tense, very nervous, in the end," he said. "England are a great team and, perhaps, we were lucky winners in some respects. The sides were very close and it could easily have been so different."

EURO 96 DAILY TEAM-BY-TEAM GUIDE

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech celebrations have grown increasingly moderate the nearer to Wembley their victory has put them. After defeating France on penalties the team had dinner, went straight to bed and rose early, to travel from Preston to their new base in the St Albans Sopwell House Hotel, previously temporary home to the Dutch. Vladimir Smicer made a slight detour and flew to Prague yesterday evening in order to get married.

Smicer's wedding preparations have been subject to considerable press speculation, with concern among some commentators that his unwillingness to cancel the big day implied lack of confidence in the Czech camp. However, Smicer intends to return to St Albans tomorrow. If he is picked to play in the final it will be a notable achievement. Not only will he have missed vital training sessions and been preoccupied with matters other than football, he also suffered a bad head injury during the semi-final that needed four stitches.

Smicer, clearly an optimistic sort of fellow, claims he will be fully fit and ready to serve his country on Sunday. His bride, Pavlína Vizkova, has high expectations, too. Her father was considered one of the best midfield players Czechoslovakia produced. Not surprisingly, Prague is still knee-high in celebrations. Football is the lead story on the news and everyone is smiling.

CAUTIONS: Nedved (3), Kuka (2), Belji (2), Suchoparek (2), Kadlec (2), Nemeš, Drulak, Smicer, Nemeček, Kubik, Latal
DISMISSAL: Latal

GERMANY

After the unsavoury outbreak of anti-German sentiment in some sections of the English tabloid press earlier in the week, it was time for sweet revenge yesterday. "Yes!" cried Express, the Cologne daily, on its front page: "Jassas!" screamed Bild, Germany's largest-selling newspaper, in similarly triumphant vein. Germany had at last exorcised the demons of 1966, when Geoff Hurst's controversial second goal helped England to beat West Germany and win the World Cup final. "Battle of Wembley — A Historic Victory", Bild told its readers.

Andy Möller's clinching penalty made sure that justice was seen to be done, too. Germany's leading sports writers felt that Stefan Kuntz's disallowed header in extra time should have been deemed legal. "Just like 30 years ago," Bild ranted. "This time it was a German goal and the ball was in the net... but it didn't count. And that's a scandal!" Express, moving into overdrive, belatedly: "Just like 30 years ago, there was a whiff of a fix." It then reflected on the outcome: "But who cares?"

Objectivity, predictably, was difficult to find. After all, England had also played rather well. From the depths of its joyous heart, though, Express did finally manage to offer a crumb of comfort. "The Germans can rejoice and England has to grieve," it said. "Sorry Gazza, sorry England — you deserved to win, too."

CAUTIONS: Babel (2), Reuter (2), Möller (2), Hiesler, Kuntz, Ziege, Bierhoff, Sammer, Klinsmann
DISMISSAL: Strunz

FINAL

Germany v Czech Republic
Sunday
Wembley, 7.0
BBC1 and ITV

REPORTS: Alyson Rudd and Russell Kempson

HOW THE SEMI-FINALS FINISHED

Germany 1 England 1 (aet; Germany win 8-5 on penalties) Shearer (3) Kuntz (16) (Wembley, attendance 75,862)	France 0 Czech Republic 0 (aet; Czech Republic win 8-5 on penalties) (Old Trafford, attendance 43,877)
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HOW THE QUARTER-FINALS FINISHED

England 0 Spain 0 (aet; England win 4-2 on penalties) (Wembley, att 75,440)	Germany 2 Croatia 1 Klinsmann (21 pen) Sammer (58) Suiker (51) (Old Trafford, att 43,412)	France 0 Holland 0 (aet; France win 5-4 on penalties) (Anfield, att 37,465)	Portugal 0 Czech Republic 1 Poborski (53) (Villa Park, att 26,832)
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HOW THE GROUPS FINISHED

England	France	Germany	Portugal
P 3 W 2 D 1 L 0 F 7 A 7	P 3 W 2 D 1 L 0 F 7 A 7	P 3 W 2 D 1 L 0 F 7 A 7	P 3 W 2 D 1 L 0 F 7 A 7
Holland 3 1 1 1 3 4 4	Spain 3 1 2 0 4 3 5	Czech Rep 3 1 1 1 5 6 4	Croatia 3 2 0 1 4 3 6
Scotland 3 1 1 1 2 4 4	Bulgaria 3 1 1 1 3 4 4	Italy 3 1 1 1 3 3 4	Denmark 3 1 1 1 4 4 4
Switzerland 3 0 1 2 1 4 1	Romania 3 0 0 3 1 4 0	Russia 3 0 1 2 4 8 1	Turkey 3 0 0 3 0 5 0

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
England 1 Switzerland 1 Shearer (23) Trivelpiece (83 pen) (Wembley, attendance 76,567)	Spain 1 Bulgaria 1 Alfonso (73) Stoichkov (66 pen) (Elland Road, attendance 26,006)	Germany 2 Czech Republic 0 Ziege (25) Möller (31) (Old Trafford, attendance 37,300)	Denmark 1 Portugal 1 B Laudrup (21) Sa Pinto (52) (Hillsborough, attendance 34,993)
Holland 0 Scotland 0 (Villa Park, attendance 34,383)	Romania 0 France 1 Dugary (24) (St James' Park, attendance 26,323)	Italy 2 Russia 1 Casiraghi (5, 52) Tsymbalat (20) (Anfield, attendance 35,123)	Turkey 0 Croatia 1 Vasovic (85) (City Ground, attendance 22,480)
Switzerland 0 Holland 2 Cruyff (65) Bergkamp (78) (Villa Park, attendance 36,800)	Bulgaria 1 Romania 0 Stoichkov (3) (St James' Park, attendance 19,107)	Czech Republic 2 Italy 1 Nedved (4) Belji (35) Chiesa (16) (Anfield, attendance 37,320)	Portugal 1 Turkey 0 Costa (66) (City Ground, attendance 22,670)
England 2 Scotland 0 Shearer (53) Gascoigne (78) (Wembley, attendance 76,864)	France 1 Spain 1 Djorkaeff (48) Carls (85) (Elland Road, attendance 35,826)	Russia 0 Germany 3 Sammer (58) Klinsmann (77, 90) (Old Trafford, attendance 50,760)	Croatia 3 Denmark 0 Suiker (53 pen, 90) Boban (81) (Hillsborough, attendance 33,671)
Scotland 1 Switzerland 0 McCrist (37) (Villa Park, attendance 39,000)	France 3 Bulgaria 1 Blanc (20) Pernev (63) Loko (90) Stoichkov (69) (St James' Park, attendance 26,976)	Italy 0 Germany 0 (Old Trafford, attendance 53,740)	Croatia 0 Portugal 3 Figo (4) João Pinto (33) Domingos (83) (City Ground, attendance 20,484)
England 4 Holland 1 Shearer (23 pen, 57) Sheringham (51, 62) Kuivert (78) (Wembley, attendance 76,798)	Romania 1 Spain 2 Raducioiu (29) Manjani (11) Amor (83) (Elland Road, attendance 32,719)	Russia 3 Czech Republic 3 Mostovoi (49) Tetratze (54) Beschastnykh (85) Suchoparek (6) Kuka (19) Smicer (98) (Anfield, attendance 21,128)	Turkey 0 Denmark 3 B Laudrup (50, 84) Nielsen (70) (Hillsborough, attendance 28,951)

PREVIOUS WINNERS 1960 USSR 1964 Spain 1968 Italy 1972 West Germany 1976 Czechoslovakia 1980 West Germany 1984 France 1988 Holland 1992 Denmark	RUNNERS-UP 1960 Yugoslavia 1964 USSR 1968 Yugoslavia 1972 USSR 1976 West Germany 1980 Belgium 1984 Spain 1988 USSR 1992 Germany	LATEST BETTING 1-3: Germany 11-5: Czech Republic	LEADING SCORERS 5: A Shearer (England) 3: J Klinsmann (Germany) B Laudrup (Denmark) H Stoichkov (Bulgaria) D Suiker (Croatia) 2: P Casiraghi (Italy) M Sammer (Germany) E Sheringham (England)
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مكتبة الأصيل

TENNIS

Congratulations Greg, you are now a true Brit.

ALAS poor Greg. Last year, Rusedski zoomed into the national consciousness like a newly-discovered planet.

SIMON BARNES



At Wimbledon

Court finding trouble. Rusedski came up against a kind of doggedly unglamorous opponent, who routinely blocks the way to the main courts and headlines and adulation.

What we got was a rather numbing, attritional match, with both men fractionally off their games, and it went to the man who was off it the least.

Rusedski has mastered the



Steven: four-set victory

most important shot in the game, the service, and he managed another 30 aces yesterday, while Steven hit a mere four. But Rusedski also served 12 double faults and crucially, three of them were in the third set tie-break, on which the match hinged.

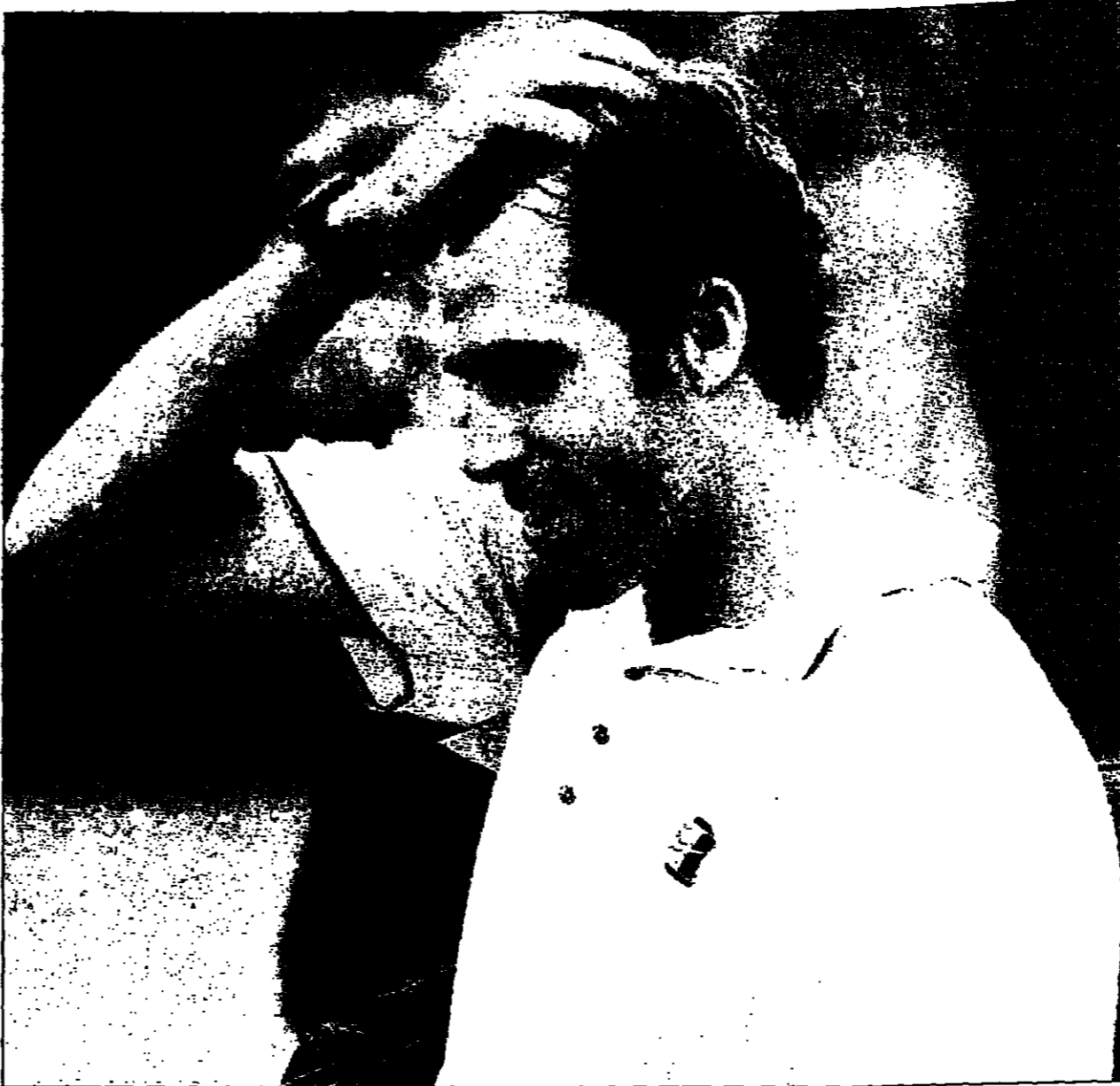
Tennis is one of those sports that make conflicting, not to say contradictory demands on its devotees. Golfers must putt as well as drive; biathletes must shoot as well as ski.

Yesterday, Rusedski had very little. Thought, touch, such things were alien to him. The best thing that happened to him was a bad call: it was his sense of outrage at this that allowed him to pick himself up and take the second set. He showed great heart in a losing cause, you might say. This is a not altogether unfamiliar script.

Instead of the Union Jack, Rusedski wore a traditional British baseball cap, and was old-fashioned enough to wear the peak at the front. Afterwards, he talked about Gazza, and poor old Southgate. "I'm glad I don't have to do that."

In the end, there is a kind of selfish likability about him, despite the grin and the unfortunate episode of the Union Jack bandana. He threw sweatbands and cap to the crowd afterwards, a kind of abbreviated striptease, and they squeaked with Wimbledon predictability, but one can forgive him even this.

Because, well, he did his best. In a difficult match, he showed heart, and after a difficult defeat, decent manners. Last year, he was a hero: this year, he is a gallant losing Brit. Greg Rusedski, consider yourself naturalised.



Rusedski manages a wry smile after his Wimbledon challenge came to a disappointing end on No 14 Court yesterday

Behind the scenes role suits Rafter

By ALIX RAMSAY

FAME is a fickle thing. Two years ago, the cameras were lined up on No 1 Court to snap the latest hope of Australian tennis.

He was, so the massed ranks of Australians hoped, the man who would, single-handed, return them to the great days of Laver and Rosewell.

He earned enough money to move to Bermuda — "it was either America, London, Bermuda or Monte Carlo, and I want to be somewhere warm" — buy himself a house and a boat and enjoy the good life. The only downside to life was the lack of decent surf in Bermuda. Rafter is, after all, an Australian, and Australia

lians are born to surf... but it was not to last.

This year Rafter is back at Wimbledon, quietly making his way into the third round by beating Gianluca Pozzi 6-1, 7-5, 6-4. Not that many people noticed. These days, the only Australian on the show courts is Mark Philippoussis.

His ranking has dropped back to 77, a long fight with a wrist injury keeping him away from the courts for some of last year, and a general disillusionment with tennis keeping him away from the limelight for much of this.

believe his own publicity. By 23, he was expected to live up to his reputation and now, at 23, he has learnt his lesson.

"I played a lot of tennis in my youth, but I didn't enjoy it at all. I guess '94 went to my head a little bit. I'm definitely behind the scenes now and, with Mark being the focus of attention, it takes the pressure off me. It's good to go about my work quietly."

He was certainly the quieter of the two yesterday. Pozzi, 31, is a battle-hardened old pro. His mug-shot in the media guide makes him look like a gangland hood, but in reality, he is softer than that and Rafter soon found his weaknesses. Pozzi's only response was a trade of colourful Italian, most of which is better left untranslated.

Rafter now meets Marc Rosset, the No 14 seed, and victory there would put him through to the fourth round for the first time. Not that he likes to look at records much. "I don't like to set myself goals, at least not ones that I'm going to talk about anyway," he said. "I am playing well and I don't want to lose; we'll just see what happens."

Like many a British player, he suffered from the national desperation to find a champion, and he has some sympathy with his fellow young hopefuls both in Great Britain and back home. "It's good that there is so much money spent in looking for young players," he said, "but the key is not to expect people to do well. Everything comes in cycles. The Aussies did well in the '50s and '60s, but in the '90s, we are struggling. We just have to be patient."

Kafelnikov maintains interest after dour struggle

By ALIX RAMSAY

YEVGENY KAFELNIKOV must love Wimbledon — he spends so much time at the place. After his lengthy match with Tim Henman on Tuesday, he was back at it again yesterday, spending 3½ hours trying to reach the second round of the men's doubles.

Teamed up with Marc Gollner, he finally did it, beating Bill Behrens and Matt Lucena 6-4, 6-7, 7-5, 6-7, 11-9.

The rate of pay for doubles may be considerably less than for the singles — comparing the two performances, Kafelnikov's hourly rate had dropped by a good £1,100 from Tuesday — but it is the only chance he has of a title this year at Wimbledon. As such, it was worth the fight, and yesterday he had to fight. In the muggy heat out on No 16 Court, he looked less than cool in his long white shorts as Behrens and Lucena dug in for a scrap.

There was a bit of racket throwing, a little muttering and a fair amount of marching around in ever decreasing circles pondering the unfairness of it all. In between, there were the sort of rallies that had won Kafelnikov the French Open doubles title and all in all it was too much for the Americans.

Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, the No 1 seeds, from Australia, were having no such trouble. They got their campaign off to an impressive start, beating Dave Randall and Kent Kinnear, another American pair. Apart from a minor hiccup in the fourth set, it was plain sailing for the Australians as they won 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 6-1 and set about planning their route to a fourth consecutive title at the championships.

THE SUNDAY TIMES advertisement featuring tennis players and promotional text: 'Can Karel Poborsky and the Czech Republic halt the German advance led by Matthias Sammer? The Sunday Times sports team prepares the ground. Plus, the most thorough analysis of the England team and its route to the World Cup THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS'

Injury rules Ruben out of planning by King

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

CHANDA RUBIN, who has a wrist injury, will be unavailable for the United States when they play Japan in the semi-finals of the Fed Cup next month. It is an injury that also threatens her participation at the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The United States captain, Billie-Jean King, yesterday confirmed Rubin's withdrawal from the Fed Cup but said no decision had been made on her Olympic status.

Rubin was seeded No 7 at Wimbledon but withdrew because of tendinitis in her right wrist. She also missed the French Open and had to retire from the tournament last week in Eastbourne.

Rubin was named to the United States Olympic tennis team with Monica Seles, Lindsay Davenport and Gigi Fernandez. If Rubin cannot play, her place will probably go to Mary Joe Fernandez.

Fernandez teamed up with Gigi Fernandez in 1992 to win the doubles gold medal and also picked up bronze in the singles. She was left out of the team this time because Rubin was ranked higher.

"It would be great to be on the team, but it also would be unfortunate for Chanda. She's had a great year," Mary Joe Fernandez said.

"I was disappointed not being on the team. Playing the '92 Olympics was the highlight of my career," she added. "It's unfortunate in one respect we have such a great country with such great players. Here I am ranked No 6 or nine in the world and I'm the last American. That's a bit rough."

Marc Rosset, of Switzerland, yesterday revealed the reason why he will, after all, defend his Olympic singles title next month. "Because I have to, otherwise they'll kill me," he said.

Rosset, the No 14 seed at Wimbledon, had previously indicated that he would not be going to Atlanta, but his gold was the only medal won by Switzerland at the 1992 Games in Barcelona.

RESULTS FROM THE ALL-ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's singles

Winner: £392,500
Runner-up: £192,250
Holder: P Sampras (US)
Second round
P SAMPRAS (US) bt M Philippoussis (Aus) 7-6, 6-4, 6-4
K Kuwara (Slovakia) bt B Black (Zim) 4-6, 6-1, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3
J Koscielak (Slovakia) bt C Wilkinson (GB) 1-6, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3
C PIOLINE (Fr) bt M R J Petchey (GB) 6-1, 6-4, 6-2
S Stolke (Aus) bt M Larsson (Swe) 6-2, 1-6, 7-6, 6-4
B Steven (NZ) bt G Rusedski (GB) 7-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2
R Krajcek (Hol) bt D Rostagno (US) 6-4, 6-3, 6-3
G NANESEVIC (Cry) bt P Boueyre (Fr) 7-5, 6-4, 6-4
A Volkov (Russ) bt M Damm (Cz) 7-6, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4
P Rafter (Aus) bt G Pozzi (It) 6-1, 7-5, 6-4
J Hisek (Swe) bt A Corneja (Sp) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1
J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt J Novak (Cz) 7-6, 6-6, 1-6, 1
M Navarra (It) bt A Costa (Sp) 4-6, 7-6, 3-6, 7-5, 9-7
T Henman (GB) bt D E Sapsford (GB) 6-1, 6-7, 6-0, 6-1

Women's singles

Winner: £353,000
Runner-up: £176,500
Holder: S Graf (Ger)
Second round
S GRAF (Ger) bt N Baudano (It) 7-5, 6-3, 6-1
N J Arandj (US) bt C Pionik (Ger) 2-6, 6-2, 6-2
L M Wild (US) bt A Fuzal (Fr) 6-4, 6-2
M HINGIS (Swe) bt R Violet (GB) 6-1, 6-1
N Trausatz (Fr) bt M MALEVA (Bul) 7-6, 3-6, 6-7

Men's doubles

Winners: £160,810
Runners-up: £80,400
Holder: T A Woodbridge and M Woodforde (Aus)
First round
J Bellet (US) and L Paes (Ind) bt D Ekerot (Swe) and L Markovits (Hun) 7-6, 6-7, 7-6, 6-3
B MacPhie (US) and M Tabbatt (Aus) bt J Eagle and A Florant (Aus) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 5-7, 13-11
M Oosting and S Schouten (Hol) bt S E Davis (US) and P Kilderry (Aus) 6-3, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4
J Grabb and R A Renberg (US) bt A Kline and G Mandl (Aust) 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4
M GOLLNER (Ger) and Y KAFELNIKOV (Russ) bt B Behrens and M Lucena (US) 6-4, 6-7, 7-5, 6-7, 11-9

Women's doubles

Winners: £139,040
Runners-up: £69,520
Holder: J Novotna (Cz) and A Sanchez Vicario (Sp)
First round
P D SMYLIE (Aus) and L MWILD (US) bt K Kachwendt (Ger) and F Labat (Arg) 6-2, 6-1
L M McNEIL (US) and N TALIZIAT (Fr) bt N Faber and D van Rossum (Bel) 7-6, 1-6, 6-4
D A Gahnen (US) and M Paz (Arg) bt R Bobkova and E Melicharova (Cz) 5-7, 6-4, 6-2
L A DAVENPORT (US) and M J FERNANDEZ (US) bt N K Kijimata (Japan) and Y Yoshida (Japan) 6-3, 1-6, 6-1
J M Hestermann (Can) and K S Rinaldi-Shirley (US) bt M Matic (Cz) and K Studnicova (Slovakia) 6-4, 6-2
A DECHAUME-BALLEST and S TESTUD (Fr) bt E R De Lorie (US) and N J Firth (Aus) 6-3, 6-2
J NOVOTNA (Cz) and A SANCHEZ VICARIO (Sp) bt A Frazer and K Po (US) 4-6, 6-2, 6-1
S Appelmann (Bel) and M Orensens (Hol) bt M Koutstal (Hol) and S H Park (S Kor) 6-4, 6-2

Barclays Bank PLC

The following change in the Barclays Personal Overdraft interest rate is effective from the start of business on 28th June 1996

Table with 2 columns: New rate (1.45% per month (17.4% pa.)) and Previous rate (1.48% per month (17.74% pa.))



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مركزنا من الأمل

Venables leaves the impossible job well done



Venables optimistic

By Andrew Longmore

FOLLOWING the first rule of show business, like the shrewd old star he is, Terry Venables left the crowd calling for more when the curtain fell on his 2½-year run as England football coach.

neaday night, the telephone will not go quiet on one of Europe's most respected coaches. The shame of it all is that the callers will probably speak in foreign accents, not in the measured English of an official of the Football Association.

the standard English virtues of heart and sinew but on their own terms, in the mind. It will be a long time before the Dutch, traditional inhabitants of a different footballing planet, lose the bruises from their fall to earth.

"One of the most satisfying things has been the openness of minds, which is terrific for players used to doing things their own way. Going to a tournament and carrying through a plan, that gave me a tremendous feeling."

into German territory on the right all the way back to Adams, 30 yards from the England goal, and then into a forward dart which led to a header narrowly wide by Shearer?

The players dispersed to the sun and the beaches yesterday for a well-earned rest. Venables said his goodbyes in the morning. "It was a very strange feeling, not sad, not good, just different. We've been together all this time, been so close, then everyone goes their separate ways. The spirit has got stronger and stronger, just like the crowd's."

Wimbledon champion gains revenge on Centre Court for defeat by Philippoussis

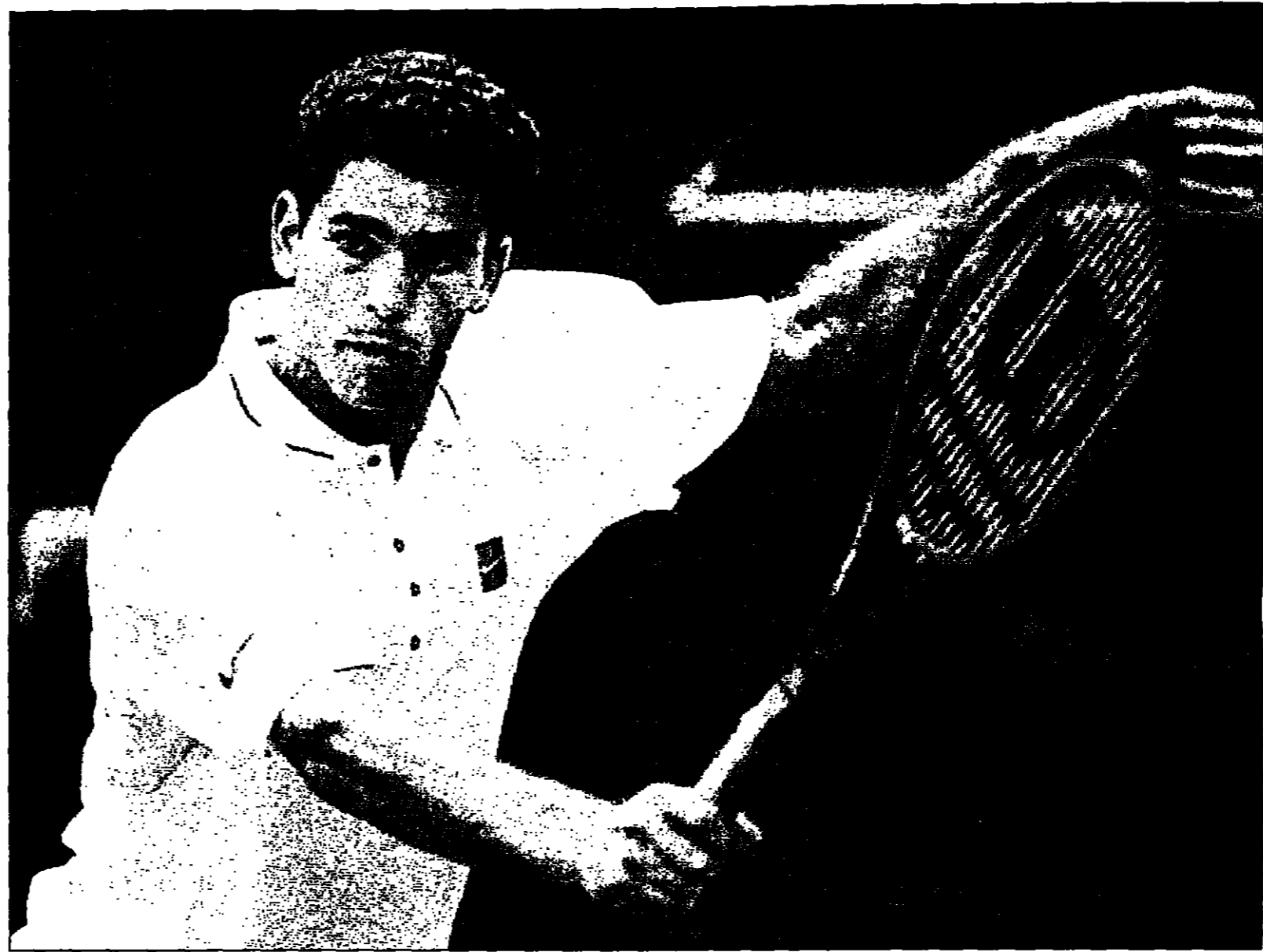
Sampras calls shots in duel of the big guns

By David Miller

MARK PHILIPPOUSSIS has an intimidating physique, a cross between an Olympic sprinter and a shot putter: 6ft 4in and 14½st of power. He fires bullets across the tennis net. Yesterday he was abruptly stopped in his tracks on Centre Court by Pete Sampras.

Bouteyre, of France, and then treating the interview room to his usual range of laconic humour: this time about the Catholic priest, Father Joe, who is giving him psychological advice every Sunday back home in Croatia "and helping me to keep calm".

to a standstill, the best he achieved against Sampras's own relentless delivery on any game was 30-15. The score progressed with as much variation as one of those fair-ground machines on which you hammer a plate to raise a ball vertically in an attempt to ring a bell.



Sampras is a study in concentration as he plays a backhand return on his way to a victory over Philippoussis at Wimbledon yesterday



Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 'TIMES TWO CROSSWORD' No 820

- ACROSS 1 Dumb (4) 2 Apt to quibble (8) 3 (Greek) bringer of retribution (7) 4 Summer; snake (5) 5 Knowledgeable collector (11) 6 Spoiled, eaten away (6) 7 Reeds, anciently for MSS (6) 8 Badminton "ball" (11) 9 Meeting of directors (5) 10 A light make (one) depressed (3,4) 11 Revert (8) 12 Poke, jog (4)

The solution to No 819 will be published Wednesday, July 3 TO READERS OF THE TIMES WE OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF TIMES PUBLICATIONS WITH FAST, EFFICIENT SERVICE PLUS FREE DELIVERY TO EU CUSTOMERS OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW AT RRP. SEND SAE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

feel fine, though I was glad of the short points." The champion remains worried about his public image, the accusation by some that his efficiency is boring. "You're not going to see any cartwheels out there, any jokes," he said. "I'm just going to go out and play."

enough injuries and I've talked about them more than enough," she said dismissively. "I live with them." She considered that early on she had been playing too deep, that this had suited Baudone and that she should have tested her with more drop shots.

one - is Martina Hingis, the 15-year-old Swiss prodigy, who yesterday disposed of Rachel Viollot for the loss of only two games. Viollot had just become the British No 1 by virtue of her first-round victory over her compatriot Megan Miller, the pair resident in Florida. Hingis, the former Wimbledon junior champion, was hammered by Graf in the opening round last year on her first senior appearance but will carry some optimism in the light of her victory over Graf in the Italian Open this year.

Strange scheduling found Mary Pierce, the No 13 seed, on a non-show court against Claire Taylor, of Britain. Pierce won in straight sets but the four games she dropped in the first set suggest that the combination of mind and game is not yet fully in tune.

Henman confirms growing potential

By David Miller

TIM HENMAN yesterday put behind him the outstanding match of the Wimbledon championships so far - Tuesday's first-round defeat of Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the fifth seed - and demonstrated he can serve better still. The impression grows, excitingly, that Britain has a player on the verge of a major breakthrough.

Gustafsson, of Sweden, or Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, the eleventh seed, for a place in the last eight. Henman contemplates the prospect calmly though he and David Felgate, his coach, are disappointed that the tournament schedule has forced him to play on four consecutive days, possibly five, if he has to play doubles tomorrow. "I'm not unhappy," Henman said in his understated way, "but maybe it's something they should look at. Some have not played between Monday and Thursday, while I seem to be spending all my time on court."

late call on No 1 Court] and scheduled him Thursday and Saturday," Felgate said, "but it's not going to make any difference to him." Thrilled by his pupil's performance against Kafelnikov, his first victory over an opponent ranked in the world's top ten, Felgate was as delighted yesterday by the service power. "It's the belief that he can hit it that hard," Felgate said. "We had a training session in February, in which he hit as hard as he could on every serve. It's not a matter of strength, but applying the strength. If you don't do that at this level, you don't win."



Henman stretches to return a forehand against Sapsford

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مكتبة الأمل

Bonn set to Wembley It's hard to win it

Bonn and Prague set to heal rift at Wembley summit

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A DIPLOMATIC breakthrough in the simmering row between Germany and the Czech Republic may be achieved on or behind the Wembley terraces when Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and Vaclav Klaus, the Czech Prime Minister, meet at the weekend to watch the Euro 96 final.

Relations between Prague and Bonn have been frosty for months and there is said to be strong personal animosity between Mr Klaus and the Chancellor. Germany has come to terms with all of its neighbours over the Second World War, apart from the Czech Republic.

Now it seems that the Germans and Czechs may be ready to bridge their differences at an informal Wembley summit. "After weeks of newspaper rhetoric about soccer wars, it would be very satisfactory to iron out a dispute in a meeting in a soccer stadium," a diplomat said in Bonn.

Whether ordinary Czechs will view it in the same light remains to be seen. "It will be revenge for the Sudetens," a Czech fan interviewed by German television said.

The critical issue is the historical treatment of a 2.5 million Sudetens, ethnic

Germans, who were expelled from Czechoslovakia in 1945-46. Czechs felt, and many still feel, that the Sudetens betrayed their country by welcoming Hitler's invasion in 1938. The Sudetens were often brutally treated, pushed into cattle trucks or forced to trek on foot with only a suitcase of belongings. The Czechs argue that these sufferings were a trifle compared to the Nazi occupation.

The lobby representing the Sudetens and their relations carries considerable political clout in Bavaria, where most of them settled. Since the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) is one of the government coalition partners, that has made for a prickly relationship with Prague.

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister and leader of the CSU, recently addressed Sudeten exiles and questioned Prague's European credentials. Mr Klaus struck back: "I am not prepared or willing to hear statements like these from such important representatives of the federal German Government."

The Bonn Government wants a public apology from the Czechs for their treatment of the Sudetens. But the

Czechs are worried that an apology will translate into claims for compensation and the restitution of property. President Havel has said it was wrong to hold all Sudeten Germans collectively guilty, but that is as far as Prague has been ready to go towards the German position.

However, the auguries are good for the soccer summit. Mr Klaus and Herr Kohl talked on the fringes of the Florence summit this month and for the first time seemed to accept that a joint Czech-German declaration should be completed as soon as possible.

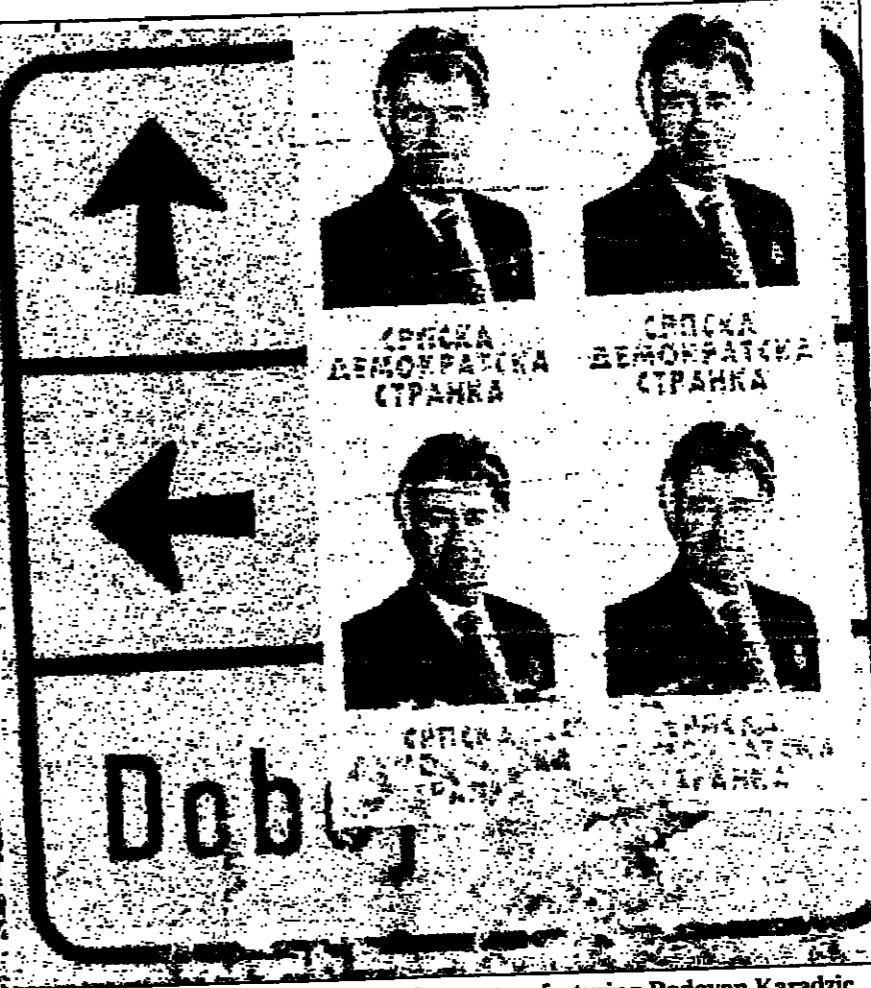
The men have not quite overcome their mutual dislike. Only last week Herr Kohl criticised Baroness Thatcher and her "Prague followers" in an off-the-cuff speech to the Christian Democratic Economic Commission. Mr Klaus is not only a radical free marketeer, but also the most Euro-sceptical of all Central and East European leaders. He has made no secret of his low opinion of Herr Kohl's cherished EMU project.

The process of working out a joint declaration with Germany has been hampered by the uncertain outcome of the Czech election, which left Mr Klaus with a minority Government. A sticking point in the coalition talks has been the identity of the new minister in charge of negotiating European entry. The Czech Foreign Ministry is reluctant to surrender that responsibility; Mr Klaus wants to keep control of the long bargaining with Brussels.

The arguments over the joint declaration have robbed the Chancellor of one of his favourite poses: champion of eastward enlargement of the European Union. The longer the dispute continued, the more it seemed to the Czechs as if Herr Waigel and the CSU were making a Sudeten settlement into a fixed condition for European entry.



An American military policeman on duty yesterday near a road sign at Dobojski with election campaign posters featuring Radovan Karadzic



Karadzic sends his lawyer to Bosnia war crimes hearing

BY BEN MACINTYRE

RADOVAN KARADZIC, the Bosnian Serb leader and alleged war criminal, implicitly recognised the legitimacy of the Bosnian War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague yesterday when his lawyer demanded access to the court to prepare a possible case for his defence on charges of mass murder and "ethnic cleansing".

Dr Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, his military commander, have been indicted on charges of genocide and top the list of the tribunal's most-wanted men, but both remain at large in Bosnian Serb territory.

The tribunal at The Hague yesterday began "Rule 61" hearings into the Karadzic and Mladic cases, a legal mechanism allowing the prosecution to present its case and increase international pressure for the arrest of the two

men, but which falls short of a trial in absentia.

The hearings were briefly delayed yesterday when Igor Pantelic, a Belgrade lawyer acting on behalf of Dr Karadzic, asked for permission to sit in on the court to examine the evidence against the two men "with a view to preparing a possible defence". The court, however, ruled that Mr Pantelic could have full access to case files and prosecution documents only if he was accompanied by the Bosnian Serb leaders at a formal trial.

Judge Claude Jorda said that Mr Pantelic could stay in the court for the reading of the charges, but would then have to sit in the public gallery for the rest of the hearing.

Prosecutors clearly fear that releasing their files before Dr Karadzic and General Mladic

are in custody could lead to interference with witnesses.

More than a dozen witnesses are expected to testify against the two men during the seven-day hearing. The indictments allege that from the earliest days of the Bosnia conflict, Dr Karadzic and General Mladic co-ordinated atrocities and mass murder of non-Serbs, which prosecutors described as "scenes from hell, written on the darkest pages of human history".

At the end of the hearings the judges will probably issue an international arrest warrant for the two men.

The tribunal yesterday charged eight Bosnian Serbs with the rape and torture of Muslim women in Foca, southwest Bosnia, in 1992 and 1993. The charges are the first to concentrate on rape as a war crime.

Mostar poll likely to bolster ethnic divide

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN MOSTAR

CITIZENS in the bitterly divided city of Mostar will vote on Sunday in Bosnia's first postwar election, which is widely expected to cement the ethnic division of the medieval town despite a two-year attempt by the European Union to reunite it.

Some 2,500 Nato troops have been deployed to provide security for the elections because officials on both sides fear a renewal of ethnic violence when thousands of refugees return to cast their ballots. Muslims and Croats fought a brutal war in 1993 which was ended with a peace deal that never solved the issues behind the fighting.

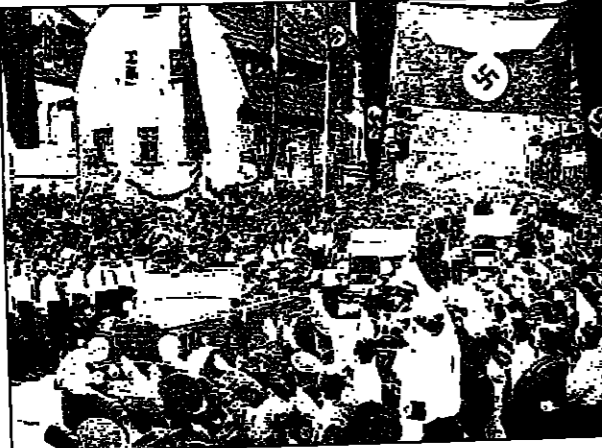
In the wake of that conflict, the EU set up an international administration in Mostar in 1994 with the aim of uniting the city, whose prewar population of approximately 126,000 was 34.8 per cent

Muslim, 33.8 per cent Croat and 19 per cent Serb. Two years and hundreds of thousands of pounds later, Mostar remains bitterly divided. Croats still occupy the thriving west bank of the Neretva river and Muslims the devastated east bank. Virtually all the Serbs are gone.

Voters will elect one mayor, and a city council, but the results are predetermined, based on a formula that allocates a certain number of seats to each ethnic group. Because the governor of the Mostar canton is a Muslim, both sides have agreed that the mayor will be a Croat.

The Mostar elections are widely perceived as a test case for nationwide elections on September 14.

However, the overwhelming apathy on both sides is likely to cement the power of the nationalists.



Hitler is cheered in 1938 as the invading German armies march across the Czechoslovak border

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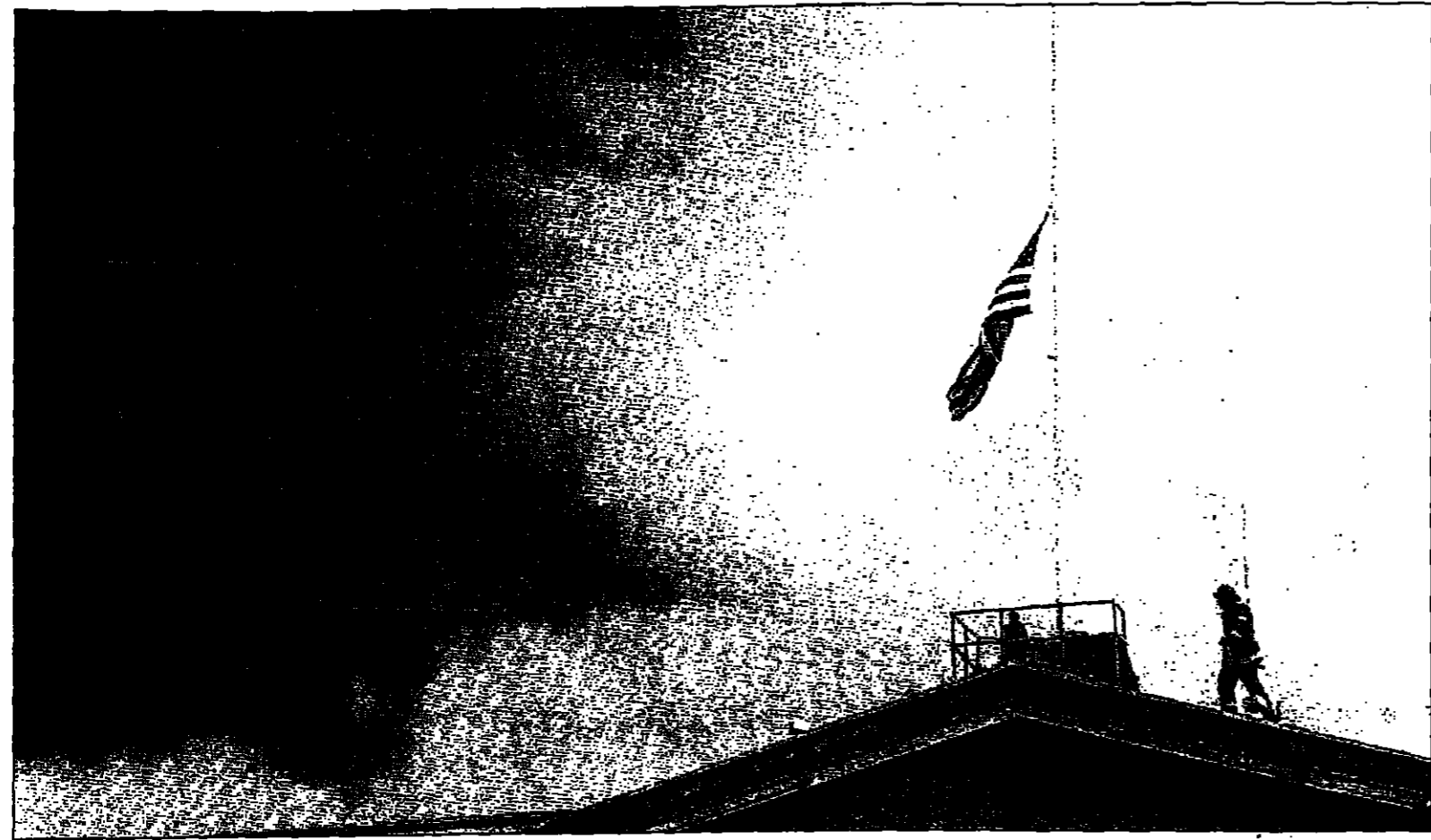
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But it needn't be terrible



A fireman keeps clear of smoke billowing from the roof of the US Treasury building in Washington. A fierce fire on the top floor of the historic building sent a pall of black smoke over the neighbouring White House and caused a rush-hour traffic jam (Ian Brodie writes). More than 75 firefighters took

Fire halts work at US Treasury

nearly four hours to bring the flames under control and seven were treated in hospital for heat exhaustion. The fire chief, Otis Latta, said their work under the vaulted roof was made difficult by the warren of offices,

many with false ceilings that had to be attacked with axes and chainsaws to reach the flames. The fire started in building materials left on the roof during restoration work. Treasury workers were given the day off

yesterday while officials checked reports of asbestos in the materials. Many documents were lost in the international affairs department on the damaged fifth floor, but no money was stored in the building. The 100m Treasury covers five acres and is the largest Greek revival structure in the world.

FBI hunts for clues to Iranian link Dhahran bombing claimed by second Islamic group

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN LYONS

A SECOND, previously unknown group, Hezbollah-Gulf, last night claimed responsibility for the explosion in which 19 American servicemen in Saudi Arabia were killed, as FBI agents hunted for clues to discover whether the attack was carried out with Iranian backing.

The claim, being treated as potentially serious by Western security experts, came in a statement in Arabic read to a news agency in the Gulf. Hezbollah (the Party of God) is closely linked to Tehran and only last month, another new wing of the organisation, Hezbollah-Bahrain, was named by the authorities as behind a plot to overthrow the pro-Western Bahraini regime. In Iran, Hezbollah is the name used to describe Islamic militants who provide grassroots support for the revolutionary Government, which yesterday denied any involvement in Tuesday's bomb, the worst attack on American servicemen or civilians in the Middle East for 13 years.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, is planning to deliver a personal assurance to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on Monday that the world's most powerful nations are united in their determination to combat Islamic and other terrorism.

Travelling straight to Saudi Arabia after the summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations, he will be the first Western minister to visit the desert kingdom since the Dhahran bombing, and will take with him the firm commitment of world leaders to back the Saudi Government in its fight against Islamic extremists.

TERRORISM

He will also insist that Britain views with repugnance remarks by Muhammad al-Masari, the dissident Saudi physicist granted temporary asylum in Britain, that the bombing was "intellectually justified". Dr Masari said he did not condone the bombings, but believed the US faced further attacks. John Major dismissed Dr Masari's remarks. "I can see no case intellectually, or any other sort, for that sort of activity in Dhahran," the Prime Minister

Saudi officer. Questioned about the claims and the FBI investigation, Mr Christopher urged caution. "Although there have been some claims of responsibility, we do not know if these are spurious or valid," he said at the G7 summit in Lyons.

Despite the denial from Tehran, the semi-official Iranian media made little effort to disguise their glee at the attack, claiming that Saudi Arabia would witness its own Islamic revolution if American forces did not withdraw and the ruling Al-Saud family did not give a political say to the opposition, which consists mainly of Islamic fundamentalists.

Tehran's daily *Abrar*, in a commentary headlined "Aftershocks in the island of black gold", said: "It seems that in the next few years, a second Middle East explosion [the first being Iran's Islamic revolution] will take place in Saudi Arabia."

Tehran radio said that the opposition to the presence of US forces was not limited to the Gulf; it also included Japan. The radio added: "The presence of American forces in countries with strong traditional and religious social structures has provoked the sensitivities of ... people who see this presence as an obstacle to their own cultural identity and national independence."

Iran News repeated the mullahs' position that America and other Western forces were a threat to the Gulf's security and should leave. "In principle, terrorism is to be condemned. However, regional observers believe that such acts will continue as long as US forces are present in this part of the world."

Intelligence experts cited the planning, organisation and finance needed for the attack as indicating the backing of a foreign power.

6 In the name of God, the merciful, Hezbollah-Gulf declares ... we threaten to carry out more attacks

said. "It is indefensible by any tenet."

Even before yesterday's admission of responsibility for the explosion, President Weizman of Israel alleged after talks with Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, that Iran was behind the explosion in which 60 other Americans were seriously wounded. Many of those were airlifted to Germany yesterday for treatment in a US military hospital, while the bodies of the victims were flown back home.

Arab diplomats said that the second claim appeared more authentic than the first, made 24 hours earlier in a call to *al-Arab* newspaper in London alleging that another previously unknown group — the Legion of the Martyr Abdulrahman al-Hurayfi — had carried out the attack. That group was linked to two Saudis beheaded last year for throwing acid at a

that the opposition to the presence of US forces was not limited to the Gulf; it also included Japan. The radio added: "The presence of American forces in countries with strong traditional and religious social structures has provoked the sensitivities of ... people who see this presence as an obstacle to their own cultural identity and national independence."

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Flying Elvis killed in nightclub stunt

FROM TOM RHODES IN NEW YORK

THREE skydiving Elvis impersonators were in mourning yesterday for their fourth colleague, who died after the team was blown off course by high winds during a nightclub opening in Boston.

The four stunt artists from the Honeymoon in Vegas skydiving team, complete with fringed jump suits, slicked-back hair and sunglasses, were supposed to fly over the WaterWorks club and land in a nearby parking area.

Instead, the gusting winds pulled two of the skydivers into Boston Harbour, a third into a street and the fourth, fatally, into the *Saville* Yacht Club. Raymond Saville, 41, of Las Vegas, died soon after he slammed into a wooden barrier off the pier. He suffered severe head and chest injuries.

"We ran into winds and so we didn't quite make it into our target," said Thomas LaRochelle, who has made 2,500 jumps over 25 years and was one of those who landed in the harbour.

He said that each member of the team was a licensed skydiver and had been performing as part of the Flying Elvises for many years. "We are all seasoned professionals and normally we can handle this, but tragically it didn't go the way we had planned."

The parachuting troupe is just a small part of the burgeoning Elvis Presley industry in Las Vegas including the notorious Elvis wedding, an event at which impersonators offer a sickly rendition of *Love Me Tender* as the happy couple join hands.

New York aims for polite force

BY TOM RHODES

AFTER more than a decade of nurturing the roughest police force in America, New York is now offering promotion and prizes to officers who exude politeness.

Plagued by more than 2,300 complaints of verbally abusive and disrespectful officers, Howard Safir, the Commissioner, is introducing random undercover checks to test and grade the levels of respect for the public among his patrolmen and women.

Anyone whose performance is found to be exemplary will be rewarded by promotions, citations and award luncheons. Those who are rude or abusive to pedestrians and drivers face disciplinary action and may be obliged to re-enter training programmes.

Military school must drop all-male rule

BY IAN BRODIE

THE US Supreme Court has ruled that an all-male military school in Virginia must admit women to its physically and mentally gruelling programme or it will have to lose its state funds.

The seven-to-one endorsement of sexual equality was celebrated by women's groups who saw it as strengthening their position in other fights they are engaged in to win support for women's athletics programmes and to open up more job opportunities to women.

The court's opinion was written by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who made her name as an advocate for women's rights before joining the bench.

Justice Bader said that an alternative programme for women at the Virginia Military Institute served the state's

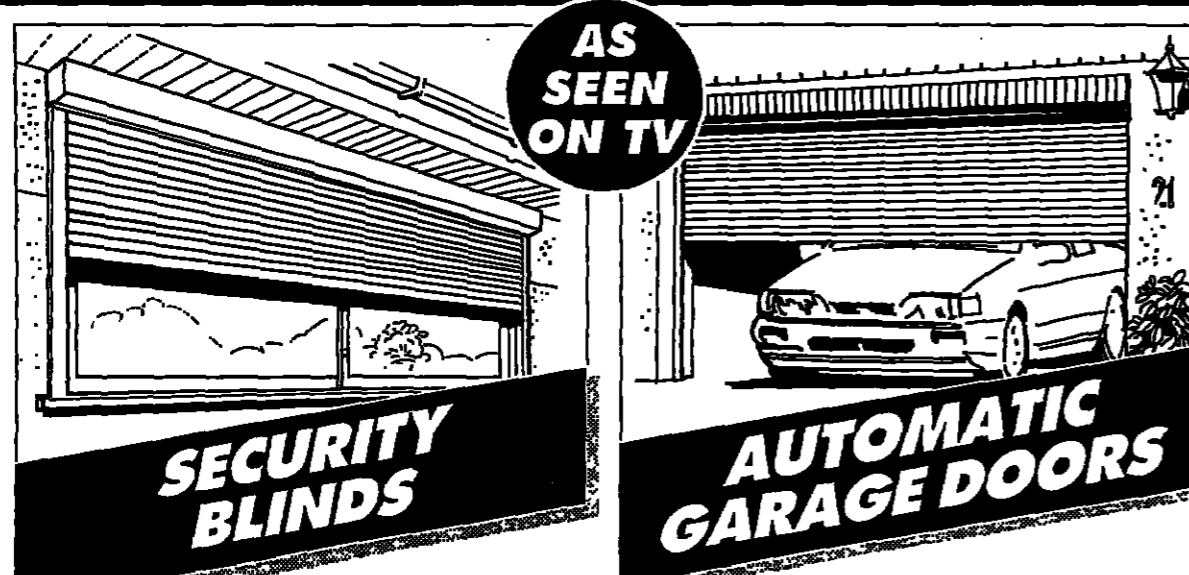
sons, yet it made no provision for its daughters.

An alternative programme for women, said the judge, was but a pale shadow of the male course and did not amount to equal protection under the American Constitution.

Conservative groups were dismayed and so was Justice Antonin Scalia, who, dissenting, lamented that the enemies of single-sex education had won. "I do not think any of us, women included, will be better off for its destruction," he said.

The decision also affects The Citadel in South Carolina, the only other all-male military school run by an American state, where Shannon Faulkner won admittance as a cadet under a court order last year. She dropped out after a week, complaining of isolation and harassment by male cadets.

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MARKS & SPENCER

Military experts and media brand 35-yard gap between fence and Dhahran flats inadequate



A waitress in a restaurant window yesterday photographs President Clinton as he addresses the people of Perouges, near Lyons

Lyons billet for army marching on its stomach

FROM MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR
IN LYONS

G7 SUMMIT

RAYMOND BARRE, the Mayor of Lyons, knows what is at stake. It is not the world's response to terrorism, debt relief, employment or the future of the World Bank: it is the honour of France.

M Barre, an economics professor and notorious gourmand, has demanded daily faxes from all the big hotels and restaurants to ensure that their menus are the finest imaginable.

Lyonnais restaurateurs are less ecstatic: for all the talk of *quennelles aux écrevisses* (crayfish dumplings) and other regional specialities, the worry is that the biggest gourmands — the locals — will be unable to get through the security cordon.

Even attempts to inspire the citizenry with music and fireworks have fallen somewhat flat. The great public concert, planned for this evening, has been moved to Saturday after everyone has gone home.

Unusually, summit leaders, who normally fly in at the last minute, all arrived early. President Clinton did what he likes doing best: campaigning in a sleepy village square in Perouges, where, he said, American GIs had fought side by side with the French resistance 52 years ago.

Americans attack security 'failure' at Saudi blast base

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

BOMB REACTION

AS THE reality of the Saudi bomb attack continued to sink in yesterday, Americans were increasingly asking why their troops had been left so vulnerable despite months of warnings.

Commentators and security experts strongly criticised the recent precautions taken around the base's housing in Dhahran, eastern Saudi Arabia, as inadequate.

General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, seemed to agree. In a terse exchange with reporters, he conceded it was time to take a new look at security.

The issue in the Dhahran bombing is that although concrete barriers had been installed on the perimeter of the complex, they were placed only 35 yards from an eight-floor block of flats where servicemen were housed.

In a scathing television report, ABC News noted that new security measures around the White House in Washington are designed to keep a lorry bomb 300 yards away. ABC News asked why the Dhahran tanker was allowed up to 35 yards from the flats.

Officials, though, sought to defend what they had done, saying 20 steps had been taken in Dhahran, including the posting of lookouts who raised the alarm. General Binford Peay, commander of US Central Command which oversees troops in Saudi Arabia, said the bomb was far more powerful than any ever used in a terrorist attack against Americans in the Middle East.

Earlier, William Perry, Defence Secretary, said there would have been many, many more casualties if the petrol tanker had been able to park immediately beside the targeted building.

Memorial services in Lyons, President Clinton will attend memorial services in Florida on Sunday for air force victims of the bombing.



Shalikashvili: concedes need for security review



Perry: to fly to Jeddah for talks with ministers

Papandreou's party seeks successor

By JOHN CARR
IN ATHENS AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

GREECE'S ruling Socialist party started a three-day national congress yesterday to elect a successor to their late leader, Andreas Papandreou.

fore at the opening session of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), attended by more than 5,000 delegates, with Akis Tsochatzopoulos, the Interior Minister, competing for the job against Costas Simitis, the Prime Minister.

ever, he has come under fire from nationalists, who accuse him of being too soft on the perceived security threat from Turkey.

Recent opinion polls indicate that Pasok is trailing the conservative New Democracy opposition nationally by at least three percentage points.



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Tabloid revolution rocks royals in Spain

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN MADRID

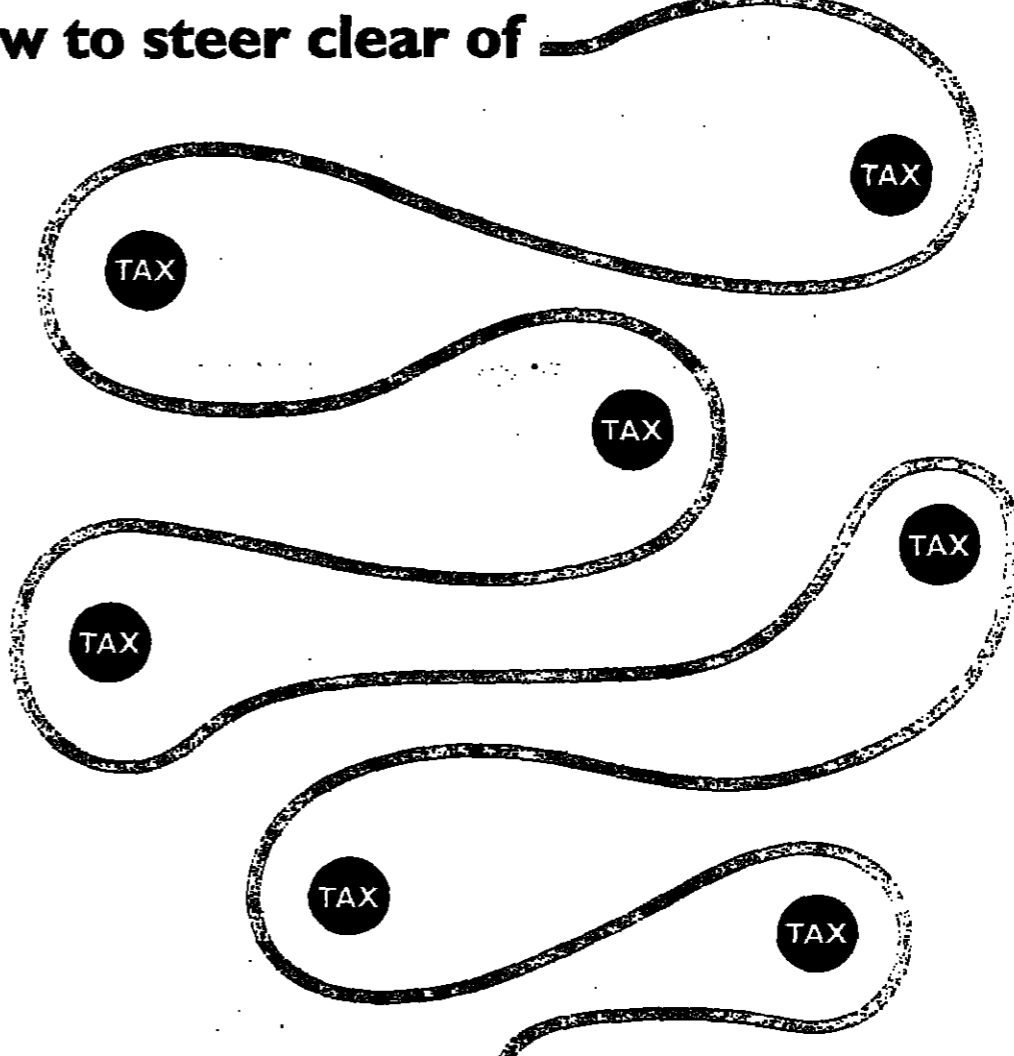
SPANISH royal circles and guardians of taste are increasingly alarmed by the tabloid revolution shaking the country's normally respectful press.

For months, the cameras and attention of Spain's gossip magazines have been trained on Crown Prince Felipe and Gigi Howard, the 24-year-old American woman with whom he is believed to be in love.

Now, worryingly for some, even ostensibly serious news magazines are adopting tabloid tactics in pursuit of royal stories. "The American who has driven the Prince crazy"; "The American adventure"; "The Gigi storm"; and "Exclusive: The secret meeting between the Prince and Gigi Howard", are some of the stories featured on the covers of magazines.

The private affairs of the royal family — and in particular that of the King — have been the subject of a tacit taboo, one that is fast eroding. "This is a natural result of the shrinking of the distance between the royal family and the public in a democracy," says Felipe Sahagun, a leader writer for *El Mundo*. Not everyone is happy, however. Clara Isabel de Bustos, court correspondent of the conservative daily *ABC*, says: "All this Gigi business in the press creates the false impression that the Prince is an idler."

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Lebed supporters balk at voting for Yeltsin

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN NOVOCHERKASSK, SOUTHERN RUSSIA

GENNADI ZYUGANOV, the Communist candidate in the Russian presidential election, has said that "voters are not serfs, they cannot be bought and sold" and this is a warning that the campaign organisers of Aleksandr Lebed, the former candidate, are taking seriously.

They know that just because the general has joined President Yeltsin's administration, this does not necessarily mean that his 11 million voters will head his advice to support the incumbent in the second round. If enough of them vote Communist, or even stay at home, Mr Yeltsin could still lose. They also know that if General Lebed fails to turn out most of his voters for the President, then even if Mr Yeltsin wins, General Lebed's prestige within the administration will suffer accordingly.

Mr Lebed's campaign organiser in his birthplace, the town of Novocherkassk, is



Ataman Gennadi Nedvygin, a Cossack leader and businessman, and a childhood friend of General Lebed. This week, he told a meeting of his campaign staff that "it is no good just handing out pamphlets telling our voters that they now have to vote for Yeltsin — they'll take them and stuff them down the lavatory. We've got to emphasise that Lebed is joining the administration so as to reform it, get rid of the corrupt element, and keep Yeltsin up to the mark." The strategy

adopted by Lebed supporters in Novocherkassk, and indeed nationally, tends therefore to be more about continued support for the general in his new role, and fear of Communism, than it is about positive support for Mr Yeltsin. Although General Lebed is personally popular in Novocherkassk, the biggest vote in the first round went to the Communists, with 32 per cent. Mr Nedvygin's deputy, Yuri Trukhmanov, a retired police colonel, admitted that he understood these voters well.

"For all Yeltsin's promises, pensioners here have not been paid their pension for January, February and March. Teachers have not been paid for April and May, and are now being sent on two months' unpaid holiday. I know how these people will vote."

General Lebed's pledge to get tough on crime and cor-

ruption is popular, and is endlessly emphasised by his election propaganda. But as another of Mr Nedvygin's assistants, Yevgeni Kirsanov, a local historian, admitted: "None of us really know how the Lebed vote will go the next time round. He has frightened some people with his authoritarian image. So our key task is to show that Lebed is tough, but not cruel; determined, but moderate."

In straw polls on the streets of Novocherkassk and the regional centre of Rostov this week, about half of General Lebed's voters interviewed said that they would now vote for Mr Yeltsin, with a quarter saying they support the Communist and another quarter undecided or against both candidates.

The latest national opinion poll, published yesterday, showed 59 per cent of General Lebed's voters now supporting Mr Yeltsin, with 14 per cent going to Mr Zyuganov. According to the poll, this would help to give President Yeltsin a vote of 53 per cent and victory, but by such a narrow margin that Yeltsin supporters are worried.

The clear risk for Mr Yeltsin is that Lebed supporters may not vote. Again and again, people who had backed the general, and even the liberal leader, Grigori Yavlinsky, have said that if they voted for the President, it would be without enthusiasm. As Yuri Andreyevichy, an engineer, said: "I voted for Lebed because I believe he would try to do something against crime and corruption. Now he's with Yeltsin, I suppose I'll vote for Yeltsin, but I'm afraid Yeltsin's regime may simply stifle him, or sack him again, and nothing will change."

Or, as Mikhail, an officer cadet, put it: "I voted for Lebed in the first round, but whatever he says, I just can't bring myself to vote for Yeltsin in the second. I can't forgive Yeltsin for what he's done to the army."



General Aleksandr Lebed addresses nationalist supporters in Moscow yesterday

New supremo defines empire

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ONLY A week into his job as the country's National Security Adviser, General Aleksandr Lebed has made it clear that his political ambitions know no bounds.

Not content with his broad, but ill-defined, new powers as Russia's security supremo, the former paratrooper yesterday laid claim to wide-ranging areas of government policy and set his sights firmly on the Kremlin.

The move, during a meeting with Russian nationalists in Moscow, seemed likely to reinforce the growing suspicion among many Kremlin insiders that the man brought in to save President Yeltsin in next week's election may turn out to be a Frankenstein bent on seizing power.

Although widely anticipated, the extent of General Lebed's public muscle-flexing has staggered even those pundits accustomed to his growling threats, which previously have been confined to discuss-

ing criminals, corrupt politicians and army rivals.

Yesterday, during a free-ranging question-and-answer session with supporters of the Union of Patriotic and National Organisations, General Lebed left little doubt that he expected his writ to run much further. Hardly any aspect of government policy was left untouched by the former boxer and Afghan war veteran, who claimed everything from protecting Russian culture to stemming the brain-drain as issues of national security.

Plea for reruns in Natal poll

Johannesburg: Peter Miller, Minister of Local Government in KwaZulu/Natal, yesterday applied in the Supreme Court to have voting in four rural areas of the province declared null and void and for polling to be repeated in those areas (Inigo Gilmore writes).

The move followed complaints by the African National Congress about administrative chaos and intimidation during Wednesday's local elections. President Mandela said the repeatedly delayed polls had largely been free and fair. Final results are expected today.

Prisoners lose lottery of death

San Salvador: Four prisoners aged 18 to 22, who lost a lottery, are due to commit suicide on Monday in protest against conditions at Santa Ana jail near here. The 787 El Salvador inmates chose the suicide lottery to protest against inhuman conditions at the prison, which should hold 350. They are also on hunger strike. (AFP)

New director for institute

London: Air Marshal Sir Timothy Garden is to become Director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs on January 1, 1997, taking over from Professor Sir Laurence Martin, who will retire (Eve-Anne Prentice writes). Sir Timothy, 52, started his career as a pilot in the RAF.

Uganda votes

Kampala: Long queues formed outside polling stations around the Ugandan capital as the country marked its return to democracy with parliamentary elections after some two decades of dictatorship. (Reuters)

Zyuganov flaunts xenophobia

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

ON A day when he might have been expected to be out seeking new voters, Gennadi Zyuganov, the Russian Communist presidential candidate, yesterday gave an aggressive speech to a forum of Orthodox Church believers that reinforced his reputation as a xenophobic nationalist with anti-Semitic leanings.

"I am a believer and first of all I believe in Russia," he said to loud applause, saying he had renounced the atheistic doctrines his party used to espouse. He read out the main points of a "programme of national revival" that included a crackdown on pornography and the rebuilding of ruined churches, as well as "the recreation of a single Russian state" on the territory of Russia and its Slavic neighbours.



Zyuganov: aggressive speech to church group

Mr Zyuganov has been advised by some of his aides to adopt a moderate, social-democratic tone in order to build on his core support of 24 million voters and win the presidential run-off on July 3. His choice of audience yesterday showed that he believes

the opposite, that there are votes in a new kind of post-Communist nationalism.

That is the ideology expressed in his two books, *Over the Horizon* and *I Believe in Russia*, where the West is portrayed as a malign influence on Russia's struggle to build its own "spiritually healthy" civilisation.

One of the alarming features of the books is a failure to conceal an instinctual anti-Semitism. In *I Believe in Russia* he alleges that the Western financial system is run by a Jewish conspiracy. Sergei Bykov, of the Moscow Anti-Fascist Centre, said he feared Russians had not yet appreciated how extreme Mr Zyuganov's views were.

"What separates him from the old Communists is that they, formally at least, were internationalists," Mr Bykov said. "He is a thorough nationalist."

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Jupiter's biggest moon has a visitor

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE Galileo spacecraft yesterday skimmed by Ganymede, the solar system's largest moon.

Were it not in orbit around Jupiter, Ganymede would qualify as a very respectable planet in its own right: three-quarters as large as Mars, bigger than Mercury, and twice the size and ten times the mass of Pluto.

Galileo passed within 524 miles of the moon, taking pictures which should reveal surface details as small as 33 feet across on Ganymede's cratered surface.

The images will take time to be sent back to Earth, because Galileo's antenna has been out of action since it failed to unfurl in 1991, two years after the spacecraft was launched on its journey by the space shuttle Atlantis.

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Patten lays the blame on Peking for exodus

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE twenty-eighth British Governor of Hong Kong is also Chris Patten the Tory bruiser, and both characters have been in evidence this week, a year before the colony's handover to China on June 30, 1997. "It is absolutely essential," he said yesterday, "that we don't connive at the destruction of those things which make Hong Kong so special."

Whitehall insists that London and Peking are now getting along rather well, despite Peking's plan to abolish the elected legislature and truncate the Bill of Rights.

The most experienced local pollster estimates that between 750,000 and two million of Hong Kong's 6.2 million people are prepared to leave if something goes wrong. A thousand a week emigrate.

In conversation with *The Times*, the Governor blames the loss of nerve on Chinese officials. "They suggest the Civil Service shouldn't be neutral, that judges should mind their p's and q's... and that people might not be free to commemorate events which have a marked effect on their consciences."

"Commemoration" was a reference to the Tiananmen Square massacre, on June 4, 1989, marked annually by thousands in Hong Kong's Victoria Park. When it was announced, just before this year's event, that the park was to be closed next year "for renovation", some suspected Peking's hand. "Of course they can meet there," Mr Patten said. He was similarly adamant on demonstrations, ruled out by China, during the handover ceremony. "Of course there will be demonstrations - at it, before it, after it. Chinese officials should be thinking about how to reassure people rather than causing them to finger their passports nervously. The greatest controversy about Mr Patten, whose enemies blame him for Peking's harsh attitude towards Hong Kong, is his decision four years ago to widen the franchise for the colony's 60-member Legislative Council (LegCo) or parliament, traditionally completely or partly appointed by the Governor, so that it would be wholly elected. Democrats last year received most of the nearly one million votes cast. Peking denounced this body as a violation of past agreements.

Mr Patten rejects the suggestion that he should have gone along with the Chinese plan for a partly elected, partly designated body.

Zhou Nan, China's chief representative in the colony, said this week that perhaps 50 per cent of the present council could be appointed to the provisional body. "The bad news," Mr Patten said, "is that 50 per cent won't."

It is on this issue, he claims, that the 17 rounds of negotiations with Peking broke down in 1994. "We were supposed to agree that Chinese officials could cherry-pick which LegCo members could go through 1997 and which didn't have enough patriotic spirit? We would have spent two years explaining that intolerable action to Hong Kong, Westminster, and the world. And you can bet the people with the placards would have been outside the gates of Government House."

On transition day - which was widely eaten in Japanese homes. The International Whaling Commission ban on commercial whaling changed all that, and nearly wiped out Japan's whaling industry. Japanese fans of whale meat are a declining breed and the number of specialist restaurants has shrunk to ten from more than 70 a decade ago.

The only legal source of whale meat is the "research whaling" which allows Japan to catch a quota of minke whales each year. "The only whales that we can eat now are these small minke whales," said Takashi Sato, a restaurant owner.

However, the commission conference heard this week that genetic tests on whale meat on sale in Japanese supermarkets showed that some of it was from the endangered blue whale, a protected species. Because of its rarity, whale dishes, which were once the cheapest of foods, has become one of the most expensive.



Angus Hamley, 13, left, and Guy Thulborn, nine, who found fossil remains of an amphibian resembling this model

Walking out of the deep Down Under

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

TWO boys have been credited with one of the biggest breakthroughs in paleontology in decades, after stumbling across fossil finds which indicate amphibians lived in Australia 330 million years ago.

Angus Hamley, 13, and his friend Guy Thulborn, nine, found the fossils on grazing land at Drummond Basin, a remote outback area near Rockhampton in Queensland. They had gone there with their fathers, who are researchers at Queensland University, after receiving a collection of fossilised fish spines for analysis from a local cattle farmer.

"The fossil find is significant because it shows that direct descendants of the current form of tetrapods - amphibians, birds, reptiles and mammals - were distributed throughout the southern as well as the northern hemispheres," said Tim Hamley, who with his colleague, Tony Thulborn, published their findings in the British scientific journal, *Nature*, this week.

"Previously, the southern hemisphere 330 million years ago was thought to be too cold for amphibians to survive and most of these fossils were found in Scotland," he added.

The researchers collected several boxes of material from the site, which is regarded as one of the most significant for investigating the history of early freshwater fish and amphibians.

The fossils pre-date the first dinosaurs by 160 million years, at a time when Australia was part of a vast continent linked to India, Africa, Antarctica and South America.

The Queensland researchers are still uncovering more pieces of the fossil jigsaw puzzle, including what they believe is an entire ancient fossil community with freshwater fish, invertebrates and plants.

However Mr Hamley cautioned that it was too hard to prove scientifically that Australia was the first place where fish moved on to land.

Diners in Tokyo get a taste of the rarest delicacies

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

ON MOST nights customers have to fight hard to get a seat at Taruichi, a whale meat restaurant in Tokyo's Shinjuku district, which is packed with middle-aged businessmen nostalgic for a meal that reminds them of their younger days.

Until the early 1980s, whale was widely eaten in Japanese homes. The International Whaling Commission ban on commercial whaling changed all that, and nearly wiped out Japan's whaling industry. Japanese fans of whale meat are a declining breed and the number of specialist restaurants has shrunk to ten from more than 70 a decade ago.

The only legal source of whale meat is the "research whaling" which allows Japan to catch a quota of minke whales each year. "The only whales that we can eat now are these small minke whales," said Takashi Sato, a restaurant owner.

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鯨肉	1,000
鯨肝	1,000
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鯨鬃	500
鯨毛	500
鯨皮	500

Whale dishes on offer at Taruichi in Tokyo

were once the cheapest of foods, has become one of the most expensive.

Taruichi offers a table d'hôte special, a selection of whale delicacies for 3,000 yen (£18.70). Or you can choose from the menu which contains the following dishes: Raw whalemeat, 1,500 yen; Whaleskin, 800 yen; Chopped heart, 700 yen; Sliced liver, 600 yen; Whale penis, 600 yen; Bacon, 1,000 yen; Oesophagus, 750 yen; Adam's apple, 700 yen; Blubber 800 yen.

Tribe must wait for whale ruling

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A TRIBE of Red Indians, who gave up whaling 70 years ago, learnt last night that an application to resume their ancient hunt would have to wait until next year. The International Whaling Commission, meeting in Aberdeen, deemed the proposal too controversial for many nations, including New Zealand, to accept yet.

The plan, by the Makah tribe of the Olympic peninsula in Washington State, to kill five grey whales has put the US Government in an embarrassing position but delighted Norway and Japan.

The Makah have invoked an 1855 treaty signed with the Government which gave them the "right of taking fish and of whaling or sealing at usual and accustomed grounds". The tribe's council claims the Makah gave up whaling only because stocks of grey whales had crashed, victims of over-exploitation by factory whalers, and because the Government exterminated their culture and language.

The commission also recognises the rights of so-called aboriginal peoples, such as the

Inuits of Alaska and Icelanders, to carry out subsistence whaling for food and cultural reasons. The Makah tribal council, members of which are in Scotland this week to lobby the commission, believes a return to whaling would help to restore cultural identity and reduce social problems such as drug and alcohol abuse.

Japan, which kills about 440 minke whales annually, also claims its coastal communities have traditions similar to the Inuits and the Makah. Norway argues that its whaling is also ancient, dating back to the Vikings. However, conservationists and nations including Mexico and Australia question whether the Makah, whose diet is now of the hamburger and chips variety, need whale meat to survive.

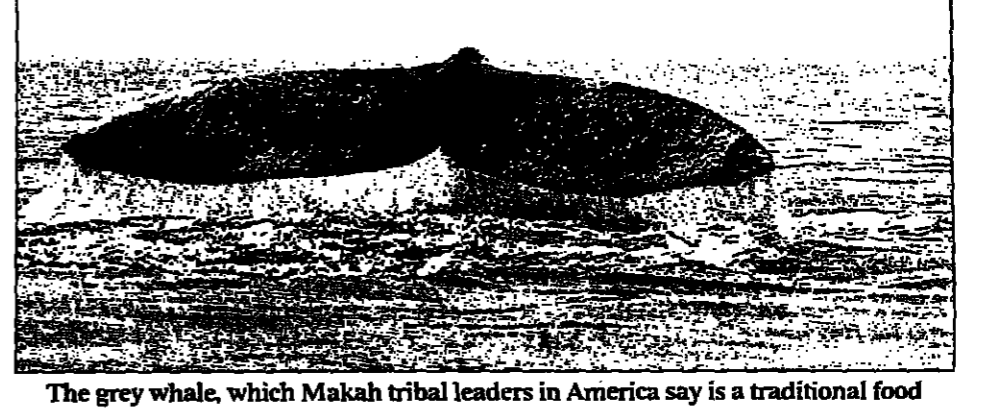
Marcy Parker, a tribal council member brought to lobby the commission, insisted: "Whales are the central focus of our culture. Even though we have not hunted the whale on the ocean in 70 years, we have hunted the whale in our hearts and in our minds."

To counter the council, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society has flown in two other Makah including Alberta Thompson, a tribal elder. She said: "A local man caught a whale in his nets last year, and they had to ask an Alaskan woman to cut it up. They handed it out round the village. Nobody wanted it because it has a horrible smell."

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The grey whale, which Makah tribal leaders in America say is a traditional food

Japan loses hunting vote

Aberdeen: Japan lost another battle yesterday in its long fight to win approval for traditional whaling communities to kill 50 whales in spite of a worldwide ban.

The International Whaling Commission rejected Japan's perennial appeal by a vote of 16-8 at its annual conference, which ends today. Japan objects to the 1986 non-binding ban on commercial whaling and campaigns for a return to hunting sustainable populations of whale.

Some supporters, including St. Lucia and Antigua in the Caribbean, said other members should understand that food from the sea was critically important to the economic security of coastal communities. (AP)



Coral decay threatens medical harvest

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE

THE magical, underwater world of the coral reef is being smothered to death. The crystal-clear seas which the coral needs to survive are being poisoned by a deluge of oil spills, sewage, tourists and over-zealous fishermen using cyanide and explosives, according to hundreds of experts meeting in Panama.

Moves to help the globe's great reefs have been given added impetus because some corals have been found to hold revolutionary benefits for medicine. They can be used to make lifelike, moveable artificial eyes and to rebuild damaged human bones. The coral is extremely porous, allowing blood vessels and tissue to grow into it.

But the medical hopes being pinned on coral are being clouded by the threat to its habitat. Of the 109 countries with reefs, 93 have coral that has been damaged by human activity. About 10 per cent of the world's coral reefs may now be dying and beyond help, and another 30 per cent are expected to "decline seriously" within the next 20 years, a 1993 study said.

Scientists meeting at the International Coral Reef Symposium this week are trying to find ways to stop the problem getting worse and to revive ailing reefs. Millions of people in countries with reefs rely on them for food.

Samantha Flint, a director of the London-based Coral Cay Conservation Limited which is represented at the

conference, said yesterday: "In Asia the main threat is over-fishing, where dynamite is used, and cyanide is sprayed into cracks to stun the fish. In the Caribbean, water sports and diving, with people standing on the coral and taking samples home, are the

greatest threats; at some dive sites, the reef is dead."

Even the Great Barrier Reef, which experts give a relatively clean bill of health, is suffering from the effects of agricultural chemicals washed on to it from the rivers of Queensland.



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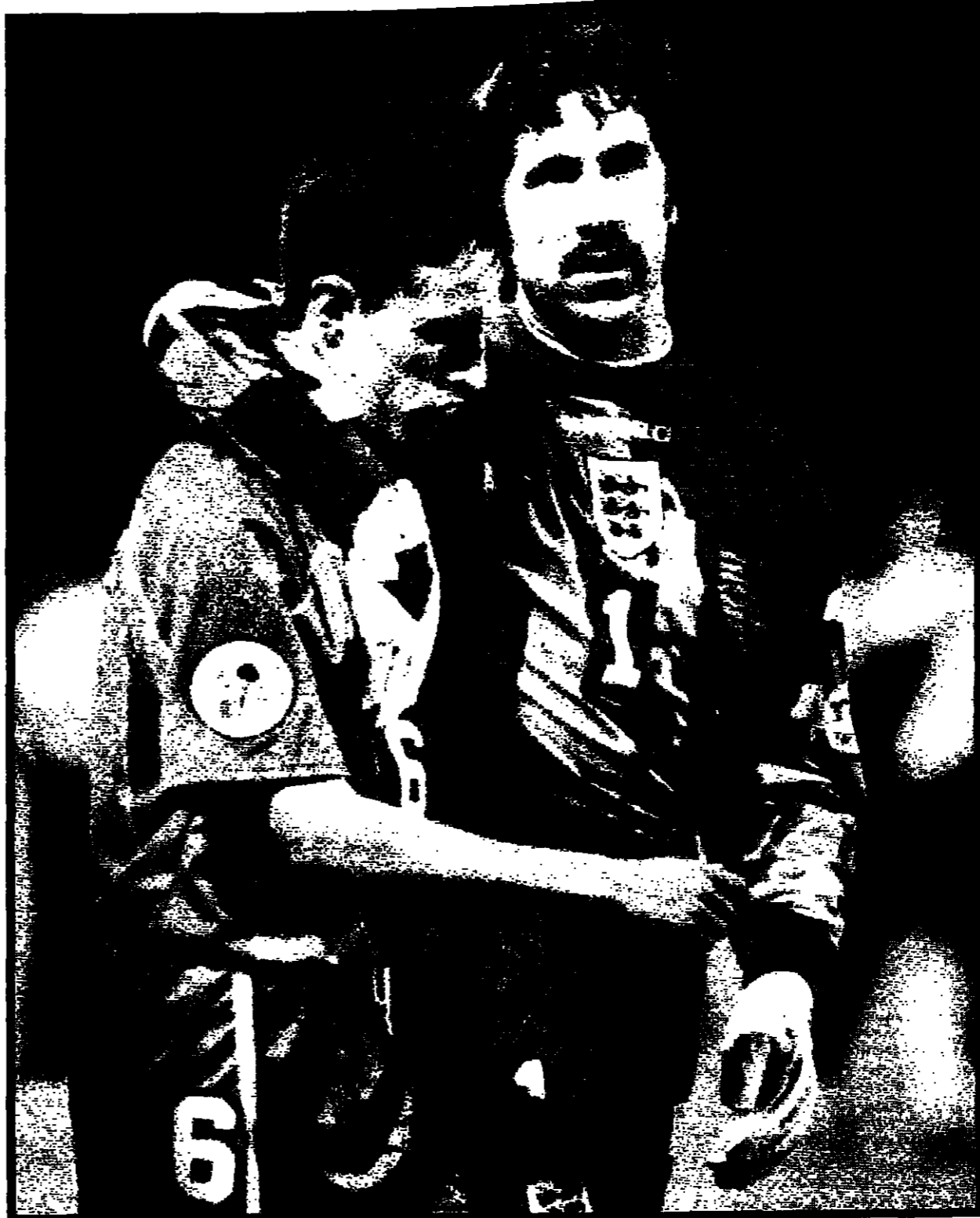
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Sheringham celebrates with Gascoigne: "I could walk into any pub in the land and start a Euro 96 conversation"

Seaman and Southgate after the semi-final: "England thrilled the heart; they consoled each other wonderfully"

The end of the affair



Lynne Truss was never a football fan but after three weeks of Euro 96 she is nursing a broken heart – and knows just how it feels to be gutted

Practically speaking, it is rather tricky writing while your head is in your hands. It involves typing with the elbows, while tears trickle towards the keys. For woe, woe, thrice woe. How weary, stale, flat and unprofitable seem to me all the uses of this world. Is it always like this, then? Who would choose to be a football supporter, if this is what happens? A lost semi-final, and I feel bereft, abandoned, lonely. Where did everybody go? I have heard people use the expression "gutted", rather freely in the past, but never before felt the moment when the cruel knife slips in and the purple slithering bits are yanked out and split on the sawdust. Libby Purves rang me at half-time on Wednesday night. Things were quite cheerful at that stage, as you may remember. At my house, my friend Robert was just popping out for some beers (he found a queue), and I was laying out a fortifying Greek feast from Marks & Spencer. "Hello, who's this?" I said when the phone rang, assum-

ing it was a foot who didn't know about the football. It was Libby. "It's just a game, Lynne," she warned me. "I know, I know," I laughed. "Great goal from Shearer, though. Third minute! Good old Shearer, looks lovely in grey, really suits him, what a night, isn't it torture —" But interrupting my Great Bores of Today speech, she made sure I got the message. Reading my Euro 96 pieces carefully over the past three weeks, she had intuited that I was getting a tad emotionally involved. "So don't forget," she insisted, "it's just a game." I said yes, of course, thanks. Just a game, OK — and then hung up quickly, anxious not to miss Rudi Gullit on the telly, without whose wisdom, gentility and fabulous good looks life will no longer be worth living. As I should perhaps remind myself here, three weeks ago I had not heard of

Rudi Gullit, despite his captaincy of the triumphant 1988 European Cup Dutch team and fruitful association with Chelsea. No, his name meant nothing. Someone told me that "Rude Hoolit" was spelt with a "G", and I remember saying: "OK, I believe you; but where does it go?" Terry Venables could have been anybody in football; and when someone informed me he was the England coach, I assumed someone else must be manager. Aside from Gascoigne, the only name in the squad that meant anything to me was David Platt, which was why (once he was allowed to play) I cheered his every move. Good man, Platt. Underrated. Like a rock. No fuss about penalties, either: just bang them in. Instant expertise such as mine is wafer-thin, obviously. But I liked watching McManaman pumping those long, thin legs like a street



England fans in Trafalgar Square before Wednesday's semi-final against Germany

urchin in a Bert Hardy photograph: I liked chanting "Sea-Man, Sea-Man" (and learning the subtle difference in delivery from "Shear-Er, Shear-Er"). In any case, it seems that opinion and conviction count for as much as accuracy in discussing foot-

ball: as the ad says for *Get Shorty*, attitude plays a part. Assuming I do it in the next three days, I could now walk into any pub in the land and start a Euro 96 conversation, using my Platt gambit. It also raises a few envious eyebrows, of course, when I say I

watched the England-Holland match from aloft in the Fuji airship. I shall be telling that particular story like the Ancient Mariner for the rest of my pub-bore life. But there was a nice surprise about tackling Euro 96 from a position of total igno-

rance. Making the decision to learn about footie is unlike any other turning-point in life save perhaps being kidnapped by Moonies: once the initial move is made, no effort is required: momentum takes over. The fold welcomes you in, swallows you up, and washes your brain, and then you smile a lot, and wave a scarf. Everyone is a secret member of this club, and I never knew. For years, men have protected me from facts and opinions concerning Stuart Pearce which were bubbling just below the surface the whole time. The moment I expressed a genuine interest, they opened their hearts, and out it came. Very generous. I call it. Friends who continue to say: "Football, who cares?" I feel quite sorry for. They have not been saved, as I have. But it has its downside, and this is it. Gloom, despondency and quotations from Hamlet. *Flie on!* O fie! 'Tis an unweeded garden that grows to seed; things rank and gross in nature possess it merely. On Thursday morning, I stared blankly at the wall, scarcely able to speak. Children were in tears on Wednesday night; women broke down; men locked themselves in lavatories; friends phoned each other up for consolation. I kept telling myself: "It's only a game. Libby says it's only a game," but it was of course more than that: it was a kind of mass hysteria from which

it's very hard to wake up. I do feel brainwashed. Every time I remember that it's all over for England, I start humming "Football's coming home" again, like a machine that won't be turned off. So this is the end of Euro 96, as far as I'm concerned. If the stadium is empty on Sunday, it serves them right, those Germans, whoever they are. England played so well in extra-time on Wednesday that it thrilled the heart; they consoled each other wonderfully; they shook hands like gents; they took a lap of honour like kings. My Euro 96 pager — my constant companion for three weeks — told me the news while I watched it on screen; and though I had traced my pager's emotional journey much as Libby Purves had traced my own, I was hardly prepared for such tear-jerking stuff. Well, it's all over for England," came the first message. Then, shortly after: "England players on lap of honour. Germany celebrates. But I admit... I'm gutted." And the evening ended with the words that say it all. "As Germans go through, England heads held high. Thanks Terry for everything. Good-night."

Lynne Truss's TV review, page 47

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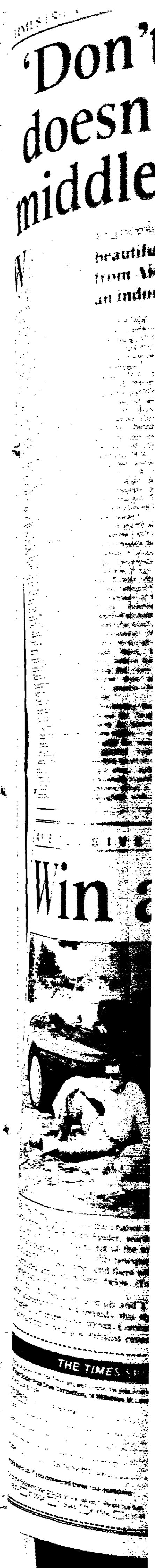


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سكزامن الأصل



'Don't think Aids doesn't happen to middle-class ladies'

When Francesca Luard discovered she had the Aids virus, she threw in her job on the *Daily Mail*, declaring that life was too short to write about shopping. She must do something that engaged her heart and soul. So she got herself into art school and took up travelling — to Spain, France, Cuba, Jamaica, painting wherever she went.

Elisabeth Luard, her mother, happened to be writing a book called *Family Life*, an amusing record of how she and her husband Nicholas brought up their four children in odd places. Because she is a cookery writer, she interspersed her narrative with wholesome recipes. (As in Nora Ephron's novel *Heartburn*, her view was that cooking is part of life.) Her book was full of scintillating common sense, especially about the teenage years.

When Francesca, the eldest of her three daughters, became HIV positive at 26, the book was abandoned. After Francesca died, in November 1994, Elisabeth added extracts from Francesca's diary, and published *Family Life*, adding the subtitle *Birth, Death and the Whole Damn Thing*: a cheering book despite its melancholy coda.

The glamorous, handsome Luards had led such a charmed life. In the 1960s Nicholas Luard — "Wykehamist ex-Guards officer and the only satirist to wear a suit", in Richard Ingrams's words — founded the Establishment Club with Peter Cook.

Elisabeth, née Longmore, ran *Private Eye*'s office. When they married at St Margaret's, Westminster, *le tout Soho demi-monde* turned up. Their honeymoon at the Ritz in Paris was cut short by a telegram from *Private Eye* about a writ from Randolph Churchill. Until their first baby was born, their lodger was Jeffrey Bernard, not yet unwell. You get the picture.

As writers, they could bring up their children wherever they pleased. For eight years they lived in Andalusia, and for a time occupied Auberon Waugh's house in the Aude — Maison Wog, as the French locals pronounce Waugh. "As a family," Elisabeth writes, "we have always expected to be able to

Francesca Luard was gifted, beautiful... and doomed to die from Aids. Her mother salutes an indomitable spirit

do everything — writing, painting, performing, whatever is necessary to communicate our feelings."

And then the beautiful Francesca, with her first-class degree and brilliant mind (she played chess for the nation) who did not use needles or live dangerously, made her terrible discovery. It is cruel, unfair, but it can happen. As Francesca wrote in her journal: "I have shared a bed with fewer men than I can count on both hands."

"I am guilty of prejudice myself," she wrote. "If I hear that someone not obviously homosexual is HIV-positive, I assume that they are either promiscuous or mainline drugs... Before I was diagnosed myself, when I first saw the pictures of Princess Diana holding the hands of an Aids patient (I hate the word 'victim') I remember thinking: 'Oh — so it's all right to touch them, then.' I truly believe that single thing did more to help people than anything else anyone has ever done."

Yesterday, the Princess of Wales joined the daughter of John Paul Getty Jr. Aileen Getty — another Aids victim — in launching a new charity for women with Aids. As argument rages over whether money spent on warning heterosexuals about Aids is mis-spent, all Elisabeth Luard can say is that she knows what it is like to have a daughter with the virus: "Death



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

'For the first time as a mother, I couldn't fix it'

is unbeatable. As a mother, you are used to fixing things. This was the first time in my life when I couldn't fix it."

They have no idea where she picked up the virus. Francesca suspected it might have been a former lover who came from Lagos.

Last Sunday Elisabeth shared a platform with Aileen Getty at a conference. "It was sponsored by *Hello!* magazine, which made it irresistible. With us on the platform was a woman who had picked up her HIV virus because her boyfriend's condom broke."

"I don't understand objections to the Aids campaign. Surely if it hasn't spread into the heterosexual community, then the campaign has worked. It has nothing to do with promiscuity: it's like the lottery."

"But I don't steam around saying this is a plague and everyone is going to get it. It's a sexually transmitted disease. You catch it the way you catch pregnancy. Our experience is very salutary for people who think this doesn't happen to nice, middle-class ladies. I'm a nice middle-class lady."

Francesca's journal ("I've always wanted to have children, lots of them, a home and a husband... Now I'm all alone with this body of mine full of these little viruses... In a way — mad, black and twisted — it's very romantic. There you are in your prime, with a perfectly good body, a fine pair of legs, but with

this terrible thing inside you") is remarkably lacking in bitterness.

"She could sometimes be angry against the disease. She would say: 'Don't think I'm brave. And don't think I wouldn't rather it had happened to anyone else including you, Ma.' Which I thought was refreshingly honest. There was no sentiment or saintliness about her."

"It was important to give her independence — not easy for two writers, trying to get the money together. But my attitude is, I can always write another piece for *Menstrual Monthly* — as we call *Period Living* magazine."

In November 1994, Francesca's T-cell melanoma, a cancer of the blood, became rampant. In her last days at St Thomas', with a view of Big Ben from the grimy windows, her body became weak, her mind remaining sharp.

"The physical process of dying is not like in the movies, or in Shakespeare," Elisabeth says. "Medicine interferes dreadfully with what is going on in your spirit. Death has its own momentum."

Family life is resilient. They picked up the threads. Elisabeth's first novel, *Emerald*, won the W.H. Smith Thumping Good Read award last year, the top-selling novel in Safeways. Nicholas's next book is about the pilgrim's walk to Santiago de Compostela. The remaining children — Caspar, Honey and Poppy — congregate often around the family table in Wales.

"But it is hard for siblings, like losing a limb. Fran was the one who always knew what everyone was doing. She had time and patience and a capacity for listening. She was the catalyst who helped friends to change their lives."

Hence the fund they have founded in her name, Francesca's Friendship Trust, "to launch young people on a path that would otherwise be closed to them."

The invitation to the launch on Monday, at an exhibition of Francesca's work at the Todd Gallery in Needham Road, W11, shows Francesca, graceful and slender, in a self-portrait photograph, contemplating her own shadow: "Jungians tell me if you can face your own shadow you are well-balanced and unafraid."



Elisabeth Luard: "Fran had time and patience — she was the catalyst who helped to change lives"

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Win a Spider



Today *The Times* gives you the chance to win the award-winning Alfa Romeo Spider, worth £22,000. All you have to do is collect six of the tokens which have been published in this newspaper over the past two weeks and send them with the completed application form below. (You can enter twice if you wish.)

With its top speed of 130mph and a 0-62mph acceleration in 8.4 seconds, this stylish two-seater is an impressive mover. Combining low fuel consumption and low exhaust emissions, it is also as environmentally friendly as they get.

The car meets demanding safety standards and for those who do not like to sacrifice their creature comforts for driving pleasure, features like power steering, height and reach-adjustable steering column come as standard. The bucket seats are ergonomically designed and bolstered for good support and comfort. The car is fitted with sophisticated security and the winner will have to be sociable — because it is a car other drivers want to stop and talk about.

THE TIMES-SPIDER PRIZE DRAW ENTRY FORM

I enclose six tokens from *The Times* and wish to enter the draw. Post to: *The Times/Spider Prize Draw Competition*, 18 Whitehall St, London, EC6B 2NG to arrive by July 6, 1996.

Name: _____
 My/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____
 Surname _____
 Address _____
 Postcode _____ Day Tel (inc STD code) _____

It would help us if you answered these four questions:

Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)
 1) 15-24 2) 25-34 3) 35-44 4) 45-54 5) 55-64 6) 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week? _____

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week? _____

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)? _____

If you do not wish to receive mailings of offers or services from *The Times* or companies carefully selected by *Times Newspapers Limited* please tick this box

THE TIMES

TOKEN 12

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Philip Howard



■ We stoics go by Underground: Tu-be or not Tu-be...

For a nation that prides itself on its pragmatism and restraint from emotion, the British are full of rage. And that is because underneath our standoffish faces and grey suits we are wildly emotional and impractical.

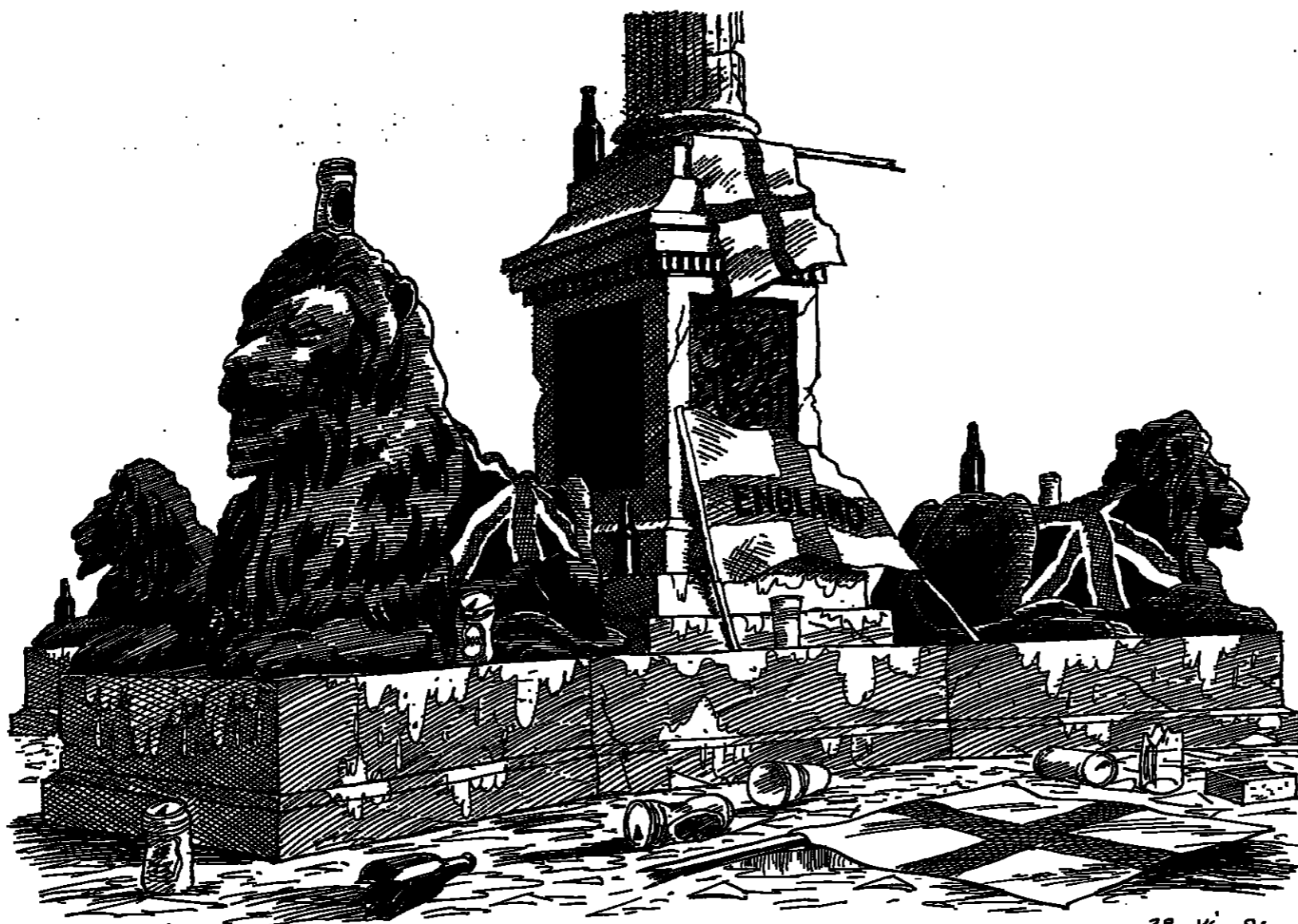
So why do we show so little bus rage and Tube rage? Heaven knows, travel by coach or train creates enough irritation to make Job swear like a footballer singing karaoke in a nightclub.

In the mongrel character of the British race, they are the Anglo-Saxon foot-soldiers, not the Norman cavalry or the Celtic chieftains waving claymores.

Just sometimes they purse their lips and mutter inaudibly. When a Circle Line is switched to Metropolitan at Baker Street without intelligible notice.

Then we may frown and pace. But we are the infantry of Agincourt and the Somme. Our qualities are Stoic endurance and humour in hard times.

When the Tube and buses go on strike, the poor bloody foot-soldiers show the enduring patience of the tribe.



THREE LIONS

Is Eros our nemesis?

Armageddon will arrive in the shape of an asteroid, we are told — but we have 100,000 years to prove the boffins wrong

Usually, I smile when the boffins tell me that a new galaxy has been discovered. It always comes out that the new one is unimaginably greater than all the previous ones put together.

But somehow, I stopped smiling when the boffins told me that a new asteroid is due to hit the Earth roughly one hundred thousand years from now.

But of course, nothing is going to happen to the colliding asteroid, because it is inconceivable that the people living a hundred thousand years from now will not have found a way to deflect or explode their grim fate.

Why has the world refused to throw in the towel, considering the state it is in? Presumably, it waits for better times, and even when the world is plainly off its head, it has always rubbed its hands and said what next? What I am asking is

why do we believe so entirely that the world goes in only one way: towards the best, but never towards the worst? No one knows how the Eros asteroid will avoid Earth's threatening fate.

Which brings me to the heart of my wanderings, I mentioned Shakespeare a few lines above, but only to guess how clumsy volumes would be superseded by, say, a special kind of light.

And there I stop, frozen with terror. A hundred thousand years — think of it, why should they be like us? Why should they read or write, or if they do, why should they not read and write in some way utterly different from what we know?

customer, refused to try it. "He wanted to plaster the walls with it," says owner Louis Rodgers. "He stuck with his usual pancakes and fruit." And look what happened to him.

Euro one!

OVER at the Daily Mirror bunker, Piers "Guten" Morgan, Sprightly Editor, is still trying to live down an editorial conference he chaired on Monday after England beat Spain on Saturday.

Notwithstanding Guten's love of Mussolini, his prediction for the final was England against France, for which he had ambitious plans: a special edition of the Daily Mirror, to be called La Mirror, extolling the virtues of French girls and cooking.

over those hundred thousand years the tide will not have gone out? We all believe that man gets better, despite the fallbacks, but there is a good deal of evidence that in very many countries it simply is not true.

Next, the boffins murmur that our tiny Earth surely cannot be the only peopled body in the firmament, and it would be a nonpareil boast to claim that

There is, however, a point more personal to Becket which should not be overlooked. It would be quite wrong to think of him as an obstinate, worldly man, whose conversion to religious ways on becoming archbishop was a mere performance, and who would never have been regarded as a saint but for the manner of his death.

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Hold on to Becket's casket

Turbulent priest or saint, asks Henry Mayr-Harting

A showy and worldly Chancellor, made Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162 to the disgust of many learned churchmen; martyred at the apparent instigation of King Henry II in his own cathedral on a stormy December afternoon in 1170; canonised in 1173; and a splendid Limoges reliquary, dating from scarcely a quarter of a century after Thomas à Becket's death, now about to be sold at Sotheby's; was there ever a more meteoric rise to official sainthood?

The best comment I ever read on this was written in an examination by a BA candidate 20 years ago. The gist was that during his archiepiscopate Becket was a bag of trouble, but after his death nobody dreamt of saying that he was the man who had quarrelled with his King, who had ridden roughshod over aristocratic rights in Kent, who had broken the unity of the bench of bishops.

What did Becket die for? He did not die for his faith; everyone shared that. He did not really die for the rights of the Roman or English Church (pace some historians); many of his opponents among the English bishops were equally keen on those. He died fighting for the rights of the church of Canterbury, Bishops and abbots of that time understood all about the universal Church, but from day to day they were more taken up with the affairs of their own church, Canterbury or London or St Albans — or Rome!

If Henry II ever said "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?", he said it not at the climax of a fit of neurotic drunkenness in the manner of Peter O'Toole's brilliant act, but because Becket complained that the younger Henry had been crowned King without his officiating, the violation of a Canterbury right. With almost his dying breath, he commended himself to St Alphege. Of the whole heavenly kingdom, it was on this obscure saint that his mind alighted in the crisis. St Alphege was an 11th-century Archbishop of Canterbury, peiled to death with chicken bones by drunken Danes, not for defending the faith but for the material possessions of the church of Canterbury.

If it was all so particular and local, why the sensation? Partly because of the times. Thanks to the rising 12th-century cathedral schools of France, the drama of the Becket conflict was acted out before a theologically educated public such as had not existed in Europe for a very long time. Whenever there is a growing theological awareness in the Latin West, there is an intensification of thinking about the Church's eternal or spiritual significance and juridical forms.

Several of Becket's supporters were Paris theologians. It would be natural for them to see the archbishop's struggle as a great instance of the Church's struggle against earthly power, indeed of the cosmic struggle between good and evil, as represented in the Apocalypse, which marked the whole of Christian history. So it was seen by the theologians of Peter the Chanter's school in Paris who debated the issue of Becket's martyrdom in the generation afterwards. Even more than from Canterbury, it was from Paris that the fame of Thomas à Becket would radiate throughout Latin Christendom.

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All change

CENTURIES of tradition are to come to an end this autumn at Westminster School, one of the country's great academic establishments. For the first time since it was founded by Elizabeth I in 1560, the school has appointed a female housemaster.

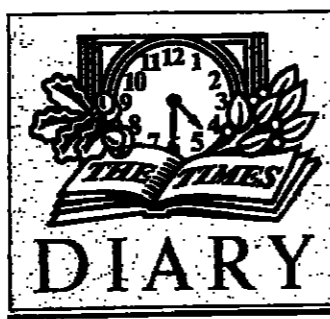
Former pupils, who include Sir Peter Ustinov, Lord Lawson of Blaby and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, were informed in the school newsletter yesterday that Fiona Freckleton, mathematics tutor and international oarswoman, will take charge of Wren's house from next term. She insists that she will be housemaster rather than housemistress.

"I took a few deep breaths before making the decision," admits David Summerscale, the Head Master. "But she is outstanding. The news has been very well received by the boys, and the staff are delighted because it represents a new look and the feeling that anybody of merit is likely to gain preferment."

Dan Topolski, rowing coach and Old Wet, is delighted by the news. "She's a smashing lady," he says. "I don't think even the crusty old buggers will be displeased." Hubert Ficiarda, QC, who was at



Fiona Freckleton: oarswoman turned housemaster



today, made a recent flight to South Africa sitting next to a pretty young brunette. Buried in his books, he all but ignored her for the journey. The next day his wife revealed her identity: Liz Hurley. "It is one thing that still leaves me grieving slightly," admits Williams.

Service break

WIMBLEDON players looking to boost their performance have rejected the usual dietary fads and routines this year. Porridge is now on the menu.

Volleys, a popular breakfast haunt for top seeds, has had to put bowls of the Scottish stodge on its menu for the first time, and regulars, who include Mary Pierce and our own Tim Henman, swear by it. However, Andre Agassi, who has long been the restaurant's best

customer, refused to try it. "He wanted to plaster the walls with it," says owner Louis Rodgers. "He stuck with his usual pancakes and fruit." And look what happened to him.

Euro one!

OVER at the Daily Mirror bunker, Piers "Guten" Morgan, Sprightly Editor, is still trying to live down an editorial conference he chaired on Monday after England beat Spain on Saturday. Guten demanded that descendants of famous Spaniards from history should be traced and asked how they felt about being trumped by the English. "Who did you have in mind?" a newsman asked. "Well," he replied, "Mussolini for a start."

Notwithstanding Guten's love of Mussolini, his prediction for the final was England against France, for which he had ambitious plans: a special edition of the Daily Mirror, to be called La Mirror, extolling the virtues of French girls and cooking. And no mention of Germans at all.

that the third hole, the location of the Dicks drama, is to be named 'Terry's Folly'.

Well, Brian

THE OMENS are far from propitious for one of England's remaining participants in Euro 96. ITV's chief commentator, the Voice of Football, Brian Moore, is down to talk us through the final between Germany and the Czech Republic, and will be hoping he doesn't suffer a repeat performance of his previous experience with the two sides.

In a European championship final two decades ago between Czechoslovakia and West Germany, Moore commented with a dicky tum. "I'd eaten something which really upset me, and literally gave a running commentary as I had to run to the loo before, at half-time and after the match. And then there was extra time."

as his revolution continues. Signs are now set on an identity change. Design consultants have been briefed to examine the corporation's logo and come up with a new image for the millennium.

Lambie-Nairn & Co, who revamped the BBC and BBC2 logos six years ago, are said to have been asked to draw up some options for a change that is likely to cost licence-fee-payers millions of pounds. When BT changed its logo it cost a cool £60 million. The BBC is hedging its bets. "There are no specific ideas at present, but that's not to say the identity will remain static."

The author is a Fellow of St Peter's College, Oxford.



"Back to reality, eh?"

WHY IIII

OF A JOU

GLORIOUS

سكزانت الأصل

P.H.S

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE June 27: The Prime Minister of Grenada was received by The Queen. The Governor of Tasmania and Lady Green were received by Her Majesty. Mr Anthony Figgis was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps...



Signor Chiochetti in 1960, when he returned to Orkney to help to restore the chapel and its ornate mural

Ex-POW is honoured for chapel he built years ago

THE Italian prisoner of war who turned an old Nissen hut on Orkney into an Italian chapel, which draws visitors from all over the world to its mural of the Madonna and Child and ornate iron-work sanctuary screen, was honoured yesterday in his home town...



The chapel created by Italian prisoners of war out of an old Nissen hut and pieces of scrap material

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.M. Birkett and Miss J.S. Marshall The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of the late Mr Miles Birkett and of Mrs Paul Andrew of Loughbor, East Sussex and Anna, only daughter of Sir Colin and Lady Marshall, of London SW7.

Today's birthdays

Mr Eric Ambler, novelist, 87; Mr Howard Barker, playwright, 48; Sir William Nicoll, a former director-general of European Communities, 69; Sir David Scholey, chairman, International Advisory Council of Swiss Bank Corporation, 61; Sir Cyril Smith, former MP, 68; Sir Garry Sobers, cricketer, 60; Viscount Whitelaw, KT, 61; 78: Lord Wright of Richmond, 65.

Royal engagements

The Queen will visit Loughborough Grammar School at 11.50 to mark its five hundredth anniversary. There are 249 boys leaving including the Captain of the School, J.C.P. Hoffman KS and the Captain of the Oppidans, the Earl of Mornington OS.

School news

Katherine McKechnie (Sydenham High School GPDST): Music Exhibitions to Sarah Boggs and Catherine Sing; Sixth Form Scholarship to Anna Coddick. Sixth Form Exhibitions to Lucy Helme and Charlotte Röddick (all of Walthamstow Hall).

The Royal Institute of International Affairs

The speech which was to have been given by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, MP, at 1.30pm on Monday, July 1, at the Royal Overseas League has been postponed. However, Mr Douglas Rimmer, Vice Chairman of the Royal African Society, will talk on "Investment in Tropical Africa".

Royal College of Physicians of London

The following have become fellows of the college: Professor Michel Broyer, Chairman of the Paediatric Nephrology Department, Hospital des Enfants Malades, Paris; Professor John Cash, President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh; Professor Meinhard Classen, Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the University Hospital, Technical University of Munich.

Dinner

Glaziers' Company The Master of the R.C. Glaziers' Company, assisted by the Renter Wardens, received members of the court and their guests at the St Peter's Day quarter court dinner held last night at Glaziers' Hall.

Appointments

Mrs Rachel Lomax to be Permanent Secretary, Welsh Office, in succession to Mr Michael Schojdar. Mrs Lomax is at present Vice-President and Chief of Staff to the President at the World Bank.

Service dinner

HMS Victory Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, was the host at the King George's Fund for Sailors dinner held last night on board HMS Victory in Portsmouth.

Reception

Imperial War Museum Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG, Chairman of the Trustees of the Imperial War Museum, was the host at a reception held yesterday at the museum to mark the opening by Baroness Thatcher, I.C., OM, FRS, of Conflicts since 1945, a new permanent exhibition at the museum.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Henry VIII, reigned 1509-47, Greenwich, 1491; Sir Peter Paul Rubens, painter, Siegen, Germany, 1577; Jean-Jacques Rousseau, philosopher, Geneva, 1712; Luigi Pirandello, dramatist, Agrigento, Sicily, 1867; Pierre Laval, head of the Vichy Government 1942-44, Chateaufort, 1883.

Academy of Experts

Sir Jack Jacob, QC, has been appointed an Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Experts. Mr Roger Clements and Mr Thomas Wadsworth have been appointed Practising Fellows.

Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1981

The commission's inaugural Reception, Fellowship and Dinner in the Bull Environment has been awarded to Ms Matilda Palmer who will study Landscape and Modernity.

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Went good to it, my friends, for someone to say he has faith when his actions do nothing to show it? Can't that be said? June 2: 14 (1922)

DEATHS: MARRIAGE - On 25th June 1996 peacefully in his 81st year. Funeral at 11.30am on Friday 28th June at 12.30pm at St. Mary's Church, Datchet.

DEATHS: TODD - Sarah Jane Clare (nee A.S.L.) on 27th June aged 57. Much loved by her family and friends. Burial at 11.30am on Thursday 4th July, No flowers please but donations if desired to Raising for the Disabled.

FOR SALE: VIKING CAMPERS/boats. FLIGHTS DIRECTORY: BARRAN, GIBSON and Flight. JETLINE: Discount fares to all destinations. OVERSEAS TRAVEL: PORTUGAL & Corsica. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: SUMMER SALE. SPECIALISTS: YOU should have a book. TICKETS FOR SALE: ALL AVAIL. WILMINGTON TICKETS WANTED.

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سكزامن الأصل

NEWS

Clinton calls for anti-terror alliance

President Clinton called for a new international alliance to combat attacks such as the Dhahran bombing, saying: "We must rally the forces of freedom and tolerance everywhere to work against terrorism."

He was speaking as leaders of the seven main industrial nations rewrote their summit agenda to consider new proposals on terrorism and organised crime..... Pages 1, 15

Race to save Becket casket for Britain

Britain has six days to save a spectacular 12th-century casket believed to have held a relic of Thomas à Becket, which is to be sold by Sotheby's on Thursday. The reliquary casket or chasse, which may have contained one of his bones, a fragment of his clothing or a lock of his hair, could be lost unless the Victoria & Albert Museum can raise several million pounds..... Page 1

Sympathy vote

Gareth Southgate, whose penalty miss against Germany brought England's Euro 96 bandwagon to a shuddering halt, returned home with words of sympathy ringing in his ears..... Pages 1, 4, 13

Care ruling

A council must provide community care whether or not it has enough money, the Court of Appeal said..... Page 10

Aids confession

A doctor disclosed he has had the Aids virus for three years, during which he worked for Scottish health boards without revealing his condition..... Page 11

Blair storm

Tony Blair flies into Edinburgh today to quell a growing storm both within and outside his party over his plans to hold a referendum on a Scottish parliament..... Page 1

Hogg 'safe'

John Major told Douglas Hogg he would keep his job as Agriculture Minister, despite calls from senior colleagues for him to be sacked..... Page 2

Windsor portrait

A long-lost portrait of Charles II, painted by Antonio Verrio as the centrepiece of a 17th-century ceiling at Windsor Castle, will be returning to Windsor after its discovery by a dealer..... Page 7

NUT rebuff

The NUT is scrapping a history commissioned to mark its 125th anniversary because the book is too critical, the author claimed..... Page 9

Gangland victory

The Irish Government virtually admitted defeat in the battle against the Dublin gangs believed to be responsible for a journalist's murder..... Page 8

Wembley goal

A diplomatic breakthrough in the simmering row between Germany and the Czech Republic may be achieved at Wembley on Sunday when Chancellor Kohl and Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus meet at the Euro 96 final Page 13

Gulf bomb claim

A previously unknown group, Hezbollah-Gulf, claimed responsibility for the Saudi explosion in which 19 American servicemen were killed..... Pages 14, 15

Vital voters

General Aleksandr Lebed has joined President Yeltsin's administration but will his 11 million voters heed his advice to support Mr Yeltsin in the presidential election's second round... Page 16

Chinese blamed

Chris Patten, Hong Kong's Governor, told The Times up to 2 million are prepared to leave if something goes wrong solely because of the actions and comments of Chinese officials Page 17

Mothers do 'ave 'em

Bright men have their mothers to thank for their cleverness, according to Professor Gillian Taylor, an expert on genetics from New South Wales, Australia. She says the genes a man inherits from his mother play a greater role in determining his intelligence than his father. Conversely, dimwitted men can also blame their mothers..... Page 1



An artist's impression of Sir Norman Foster's high-tech 80,000 all-seater Wembley Stadium, which would allow a wider range of sports and entertainment. The design is London's last bid against Manchester for a £100 million Sports Council grant

BUSINESS

Economy: The beef export ban took its toll of Britain's global trade figures in April, the trade deficit widening to £1.32 billion from £765 million in March..... Page 25

SPORT

Tennis: Pete Sampras, the defending champion, gained revenge for his defeat by Mark Philippoussis in the Australian Open in January with a straight-sets victory..... Page 48

ARTS

Comic duo: Neil Simon's comedy The Odd Couple wears its years lightly in a fine new West End staging starring Tony Randall and Jack Klugman..... Page 33

FEATURE

Gutted: Three weeks of writing about Euro 96 has turned Lynne Truss into a football addict. But, she says, who would choose to be a supporter when losing is such devastating sorrow?..... Page 18

EUROBUNK

The channel rail link operator warned its 225 banks, saying they had no chance of a majority stake in the reconstructed company..... Page 25

CRICKET

At the request of David Lloyd, the England coach, some England players have been rested by their counties during the present round of championship matches..... Page 41

POP ALBUMS

Seventies survivor, draws on her own experiences of bereavement for an impressive new album: while Lyle Lovett serves up country music with a twist of biters on his latest..... Page 34

DEGREE

The univcomprehensive list gives still aversity courses that are start in title and provides a head places..... Page 37, 38

MARKETS

The FT-SE 100 index fell 16.7 points to close at 3678.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 85.9 after a rise from \$1.5426 to \$1.5454 but a fall from DM2.3579 to DM2.3524..... Page 28

FOOTBALL

Bobby Robson thought lightning could not strike twice, but at Wembley on Wednesday night, no one believed that..... Page 42

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

The European championships at Weymouth hope to raise the profile of the sport prior to its debut in the Atlanta Olympics..... Page 46



IN THE TIMES

SMART BUYS Jane MacQuitty continues her series on the 100 best summer wines

SALE SEASON Bargain-hunter's guide to the best of the summer sales nationwide

TV LISTINGS

Preview: New York twentysomethings in a double bill. Friends (Channel 4, 9.30pm); Review: Lynne Truss on a bad night for the male sex..... Page 47

OPINION

Why the G7?

The first meeting offered only a few platitudes to an inattentive public. But it did the world a real service..... Page 21

Death of a journalist

Twelve Irish citizens have so far been murdered by Dublin's criminal gangs in three years. But the killing of Veronica Guerin, the country's leading investigative journalist, has a special power to shock..... Page 21

Glorious credit

A nation has been in mourning since the sad defeat of the England football team by Germany. That loss has been made more galling by the way it occurred..... Page 21

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

A Tory revival is under way but there is nothing in the latest poll to worry Labour. The public has become less fed up with the Tories, but this does not mean it is disenchanted with Labour..... Page 12

BERNARD LEVIN

I smile when boffins tell me that a new galaxy has been discovered. It always comes out unimaginably greater than all the previous ones put together, multiplied by many more numbers of light-years than the last one. Of course, the heavens and those who seek more knowledge of them are doing noble work, even if they don't actually bring back a couple of stars and a spare galaxy..... Page 20

HENRY MAYR-HARTING

Thomas à Becket was a truly charismatic man, else he could hardly have retained the loyalties of so many highly intelligent supporters for so long, to the certain detriment of their careers..... Page 20

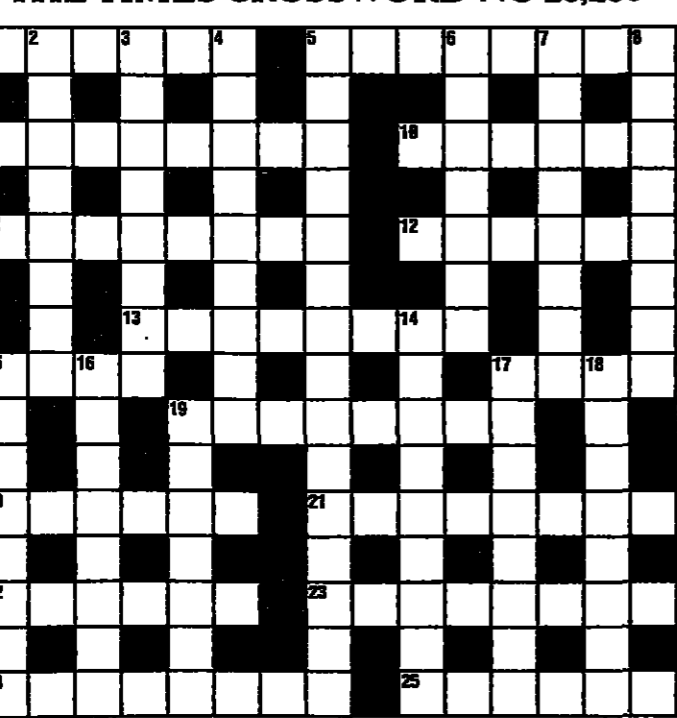
OBITUARIES

Sir Quinton Hazell, motor company chairman; John MacKenzie, pipe major; Feraud Schokweiler, Court of Justice judge..... Page 23

LEADERS

Asylum-seekers and benefits cutting: digging for the millennium; Football penalty agony..... Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,206



- ACROSS
1 Thief's gang up against it (6).
5 Harsh criticism one of us holds back, surprisingly (8).
9 It's expected to come off pan (8).
10 Hauliers bring ill-fated girl from Spain (6).
11 Stretch for this at breakfast? (8).
12 Disgraced and killed on the field (6).
13 She gets really angry, showing malice about Douglas, say (8).
15 One who takes a hand in papers to interfere (4).
17 Old French painter almost making a comeback (4).
19 Put in lead to get everyone to cooperate (4,4).
20 One old doddering fool (6).
21 Strong backing needed to win it (3,2,3).
22 String a racket head, holding one that needs several strings (6).
23 Mysterious vampire beheaded when captured by soldiers (8).
24 Come across farceur at back of theatre (8).
25 This Red Flag could be clearer (6).
DOWN
2 In new production of Barrie, no flying? (8).
3 Teacher's initial value halved, producing anguish (8).
4 All term I'd laboured in routine toil (9).
5 Madam noted pet showing style in the water (9,6).
6 Race had turned into travesty (7).
7 Devising with the incompetence of Dickensian beadle? (8).
8 Let's take care, holding share in syndicate (8).
14 Bring up railwayman, but not in the van (9).
15 When hands go up late (8).
16 Pudding is a lemon pie (8).
17 Members collectively score off only five balls? (8).
18 Intensify work on case, but not in time (8).
19 Booty criminal stored in large building (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,205. A grid of letters corresponding to the crossword puzzle solution.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

Table showing weather forecasts for various regions including Greater London, Kent/Surrey/Sussex, Dorset/Hants & IOW, Devon & Cornwall, etc.

AA ROADWATCH

Table showing road closures and traffic information for various roads like London & SE traffic, roadsworks, etc.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table showing highest and lowest temperatures for various locations like London, Manchester, Glasgow, etc.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales fairly cloudy, though the east may start bright. Rain, spreading across from the west, will be replaced later by sunny intervals and showers. It will become quite windy, especially in the west. Temperatures about normal.
In Scotland and Northern Ireland, rain will clear slowly eastwards but only to be replaced by showers, frequent in the west. Windy - winds perhaps up to gales-force in the exposed west. Temperatures will barely reach normal.
London, SE, Cent S, E, Cent N England, E Anglia, E Midlands: showery rain becoming more persistent but drying out later. Wind SW mainly moderate. Max 18C to 20C (64F to 68F).
W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW, NW England, Wales: rain or drizzle first, then brighter with a few showers. Wind SW becoming W moderate or fresh. Max 16C to 18C (61F to 64F).
Lakes, IOW, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: early rain, then sunny intervals and showers. Wind SW becoming NW fresh locally strong. Max 15C to 17C (59C to 63F).
NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth: rain at times, brighter later. Wind S becoming SW mainly moderate. Max 16C to 18C (61F to 64F).
NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy, with rain at times. Wind S or SE moderate or fresh. Max 13 to 15C (55F to 59F).
N Ireland: sunny intervals and showers, some prolonged at first. Wind S moderate becoming NW fresh or strong. Max 16C (61F).
Outlook: rather unsettled: rain or showers in most areas, especially the west.
Pollen forecast: low in Scotland, northern England, Northern Ireland, Wales, the South West; moderate in London; moderate to high in the Midlands, East Anglia, the South East.

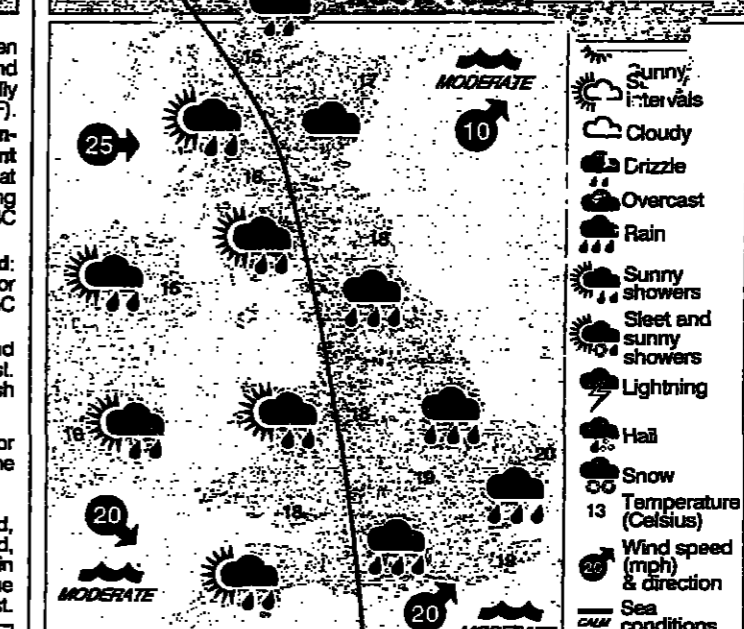
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing wind speed, rain, and temperature data for various locations across Britain for the previous day.

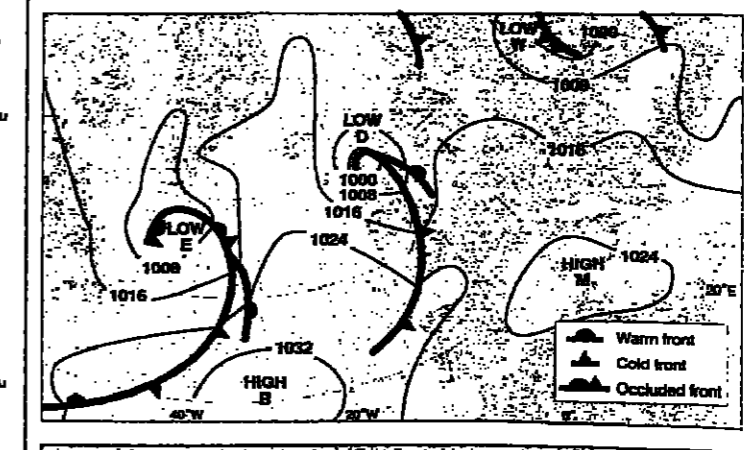
ABROAD

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations like Accra, Alton, Alexandria, Algiers, Amsterdam, Athens, etc.

WORLD TIDES



Changes to the chart below from noon: low E will move northeast as low D moves east and fills. Low W will move east and deepen. High B will drift west and high M south, both with little change



HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations like London, Edinburgh, Manchester, etc.

